



INSIDE THIS ISSUE



From the Agency

Hanscom library one of 7 best
Back to Basics: Control your costs
Two AF players in NATO Chess Tourney
AFE making summer changes
Club membership really matters

Page 2
Page 3
Page 4
Page 4
Page 5

News

Patrick SVS wins AFSPC honors
Kirtland Summer Bash 2005
Offutt SVS crew provides help in New Orleans
Honor Guard moves to Heritage Center
USAFE Youth of Year
Movin' on out
D-M Fitness Center 'Premier Facility'
Rack 'em up/Fireworks at Robins
Lackland Outdoor rec relocates
Misawa dining facility open to all
Kirtland Jetsetters nab award
Holloman family services rates high
Eielson Honor Guard at plaza dedication
Books one chapter in library story
Adapting to new mission at Andersen
Tyndall SVS CC sees Services' diversity
Pope Baby Olympics
Lackland Summer drive a success/Just beat it
Eielson youth enjoy Operation Purple
Malmstrom's FamCamp ready
To all the grills I knew
Lessons learned from lemonade
Nellis library issues summer challenge
Knights in armor at Luke Library
Salsa lessons heat up dance floor
Cutes and ladders
Lackland SVS soars at AETC
Dover wins AMC youth programs award
Nellis lodging opens in October
Elmendorf Arctic Oasis
Hanscom's 'Little Soldiers' honored
Luke opens new TLF units
Andersen troop takes second at car meet
Paint into the Blue

Page 6
Page 6
Page 7
Page 8
Page 8
Page 9
Page 9
Page 10
Page 11
Page 11
Page 12
Page 13
Page 13
Page 14
Page 15
Page 16
Page 17
Page 18
Page 19
Page 20
Page 20
Page 21
Page 21
Page 22
Page 22
Page 23
Page 23
Page 24
Page 25
Page 25
Page 26
Page 27
Page 28
Page 28

Buckley youth attend Purple Camp
Girl of the West dazzles Academy, Schriever
McConnell Outdoor Rec rebuilds boat
Hill lodging plans decor facelift
Academy helps families of deployed
Grand Forks SVS CC shares thoughts
Academy 'kids' learn about kids
Changes abound in food services
Lackland Honor Guard boast colonel, chiefs
Academy offers carriage, stagecoach rides
Lazy days of Summer
Hill hosts 'Operation Purple Camp'
JUST READ! at Charleston -- just yummy!
Services photo page
The deployed chapel band

Page 29
Page 30
Page 31
Page 32
Page 33
Page 34
Page 35
Page 35
Page 36
Page 37
Page 37
Page 38
Page 39
Page 40
Page 41

People

Cannon youth wins trip to Space Camp
Nellis youth attend Space Camp
Wellness coaching gets rid of pounds
Buckley builds Habitat home
Swim instructor a 'splash' at Warren
Chadwell chef has lots on her plate
Artist beautifies Warren bowling alley
Names, faces in the news
Agency profile: 2nd Lt. Billy Graham
Sheppard Spotlight on James Steward
Monster Mile, Sonoran Spotlight

Page 42
Page 43
Page 44
Page 45
Page 46
Page 47
Page 48
Page 49
Page 50
Page 50
Page 51

Fitness and Sports

Snapped around Services photo pages
Lifting weights builds muscle, burns fat
Travis youth form in-line hockey league
Hanscom track almost ready/Teed off!
Schriever gets new track, field
Summer fun at Robins
Hollywood stars shine on Edwards hardwood
D-M Services hosts 'Fit to Fight' Expo
Just for parents at Nellis; poker fun run
Royal Oaks vandalized/Play ball at Nellis
Three chosen as World Class Athletes
AF women win Armed Forces softball
Services, engineers prepare field of dreams

Pages 52-53
Page 54
Page 55
Page 56
Page 57
Page 57
Page 58
Page 59
Page 60
Page 61
Pages 62-63
Pages 64-65
Page 66

FROM THE AGENCY

Hanscom Library one of top 7 AF base libraries

**By Airman 1st Class
Clinton Atkins
Hanscom Air Force
Base, Mass., Public
Affairs**

Those interested in what one of the best libraries in the entire Air Force looks like should go to the Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., Library.

For fiscal 2004, the Hanscom Library was one of seven Air Force base libraries to receive a five-star rating during an awards Luncheon in Chicago at the Air Force Library and Information System workshop.

The other six base libraries to receive the five-star rating were: Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Eglin AFB, Fla., Holloman AFB, N.M., Randolph AFB, Texas, and Seymour-Johnson AFB, N.C., and Misawa Air Base, Japan.

The five-star ratings were awarded through by the Library 5 STAR program, which is in

its second year, said Teresa Hathaway, a base librarian at the Hanscom Library. One star is awarded for each of the following categories: operations, programs, training, facilities and customer service. A library needs to earn 90 percent of the points in each of the categories to receive a star.

Hanscom Library received 1,310 points out of a possible 1,380.

The 5-Star Program is designed to set goals for the libraries to strive for, Ms. Hathaway said.

"I see the publicity surrounding this 5-Star award as a great way to get the word out to our community that we are here, we're great and we're ready to serve," Ms. Hathaway said. "Just because we got five stars this year does not mean we can 'rest on our laurels' and get five stars next year. We need to keep funding up for staff development and

training, as well as providing excellent customer service, programs and materials."

The staff at the Hanscom Library takes that five-star work ethic and puts it to the test by serving an average of 725 people each week who visit the library to use the computers, and checkout books and programs they have available. The library staff, however, would like to serve more.

"Our biggest concern is getting more customers

coming in the door and checking out books and attending programs," Ms. Hathaway said.

One of the hardest points to earn in the Library 5 STAR program is for the book turnover ratio.

"To earn this point we need our customers to check out the equivalent of every book in the library, twice.

In other words if we have 25,000 books in the collection we need to have a circulation total of 50, 000," she said.

News & Views

The **News & Views** is published periodically by the Air Force Services Agency. Send comments, suggestions or submissions to: **submissions @agency.afsv.af.mil** or **steve.vanwert @agency.afsv.af.mil**.

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BACK TO BASICS

Editor's note: Periodically, this space will provide important information from one of Air Force Service Agency's branches. This issue, "Back to Basics" is provided by the Club Operations Branch.

Learn to control your costs

Purchasing is one of the most important functions in controlling your food and beverage costs. Club managers must ensure their operation uses good purchasing techniques as a means of keeping costs under control and force suppliers to be competitive in both quality and price.

Here are general purchasing guidelines:

Develop written specifications for meat, food, and supply items. These specifications set definite, identifiable standards for each item. Specifications must fit your menu needs, desired quality, market availability, and storage capabilities.

Always plan ahead. Use established par stocks with reorder points for dry goods, canned goods, condiments, fresh

and frozen meat items, and supply items. Purchases should be based on forecasted requirements. Local situations and contracts dictate the frequency and system of ordering.

Buy according to your established specifications. Buy only from approved sources. Buy fresh fruits and vegetables seasonally. Buy quality products. Buy the size items which give the best yield and that support both the menu and consumption rates. Purchase meat items by weight. Buy canned items in terms of edible drained weight. Buy fresh produce by the count, size and by weight when possible, not by the case, box or crate.

Convenience foods are of value to reduce labor costs and food production time, but shouldn't

be used if quality is sacrificed.

Keep inventories as low as possible and within your pre-established inventory levels. You should turn over your food inventories a minimum of once a month.

When purchasing beverages, the club manager must make sure: All alcoholic beverages are purchased in accordance with the procurement limitations outlined in AFI 34-219 Alcoholic Beverage Program. Purchase by specific brands, from the best source considering price, item availability, minimum order requirements, and delivery.

Analyze cost and sales mix at least twice a year. Each bottle of spirits/liquor is marked to identify club stock.

Establish and record inventory par stock levels for all

bar items based on average consumption.

Storage: All dry storerooms, refrigerators, and freezers must have well-constructed locks that can't be easily broken or jimmied. Organize inventory in refrigerators and freezers by major food groups such as: dairy (milk, cheese, eggs), meats, poultry, and fish, and produce (lettuce, carrots, fresh fruits, perishable dressings).

Produce shelf life can be extended and quality prolonged when it's processed before storage. Case goods should not be stored on the floor. All food items should be received and stored in a manner that the oldest items are used first (First In, First Out). Items must be stacked and stored in a safe manner so they don't fall and injure anyone. Ensure all bulk storage areas, refrigerators, and freezers are locked when not in use.

Inventory: Taking and extending an inventory accurately is another important aspect of controlling

food costs. You not only need to know the value of inventory; you need to know the amount of inventory to effectively control food costs. The quantity of each item on hand is the key number, not just the value of that quantity alone.

Most everyone counts the quantity on each item on the shelf, and then multiply the cost per unit by the quantity of units on hand. All the values are then added together and the total becomes that key number. There's no problem with this approach, except that when the quantity of each item is ignored until the next inventory, a lot can happen to the inventory between counts. The best way to control food usage is know how much of each item was used for a period of time, compared to how much of the item should have been used for the same period.

For more information on inventory controls, and the latest news on Air Force Clubs go to https://www.r.afsv.af.mil/Clubs_Ltd/.

Two AF players compete in 16th NATO Chess Championships

By Margaret Barnett
Community Center
Programs, AFSV

Two Air Force members were part of the U.S. Military NATO Chess team that competed in the 16th NATO competition in Kolobrzeg, Poland, Aug. 21-27.

The U.S. team tied for fourth place with France.

Col. Samuel Echaure from Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., and Staff Sgt. Robert Keough from Davis Monthan AFB, Ariz., were part of the six-person team that traveled to Poland to compete.

Fourteen NATO nations participated in the tournament. The U.S. team scored 17.5 points.

Germany, the perpetual winner of the NATO tournament, scored 22.5 points.

The tournament had been planned to coincide with the Polish Armed Forces Day and as part of the opening ceremony all countries took part in a march to a memorial honoring fallen soldiers and a

special review of Polish troops.

The U.S. team represented the U.S. military professionally, with great respect and pride.

The Polish hosts even provided the teams with translators to accompany them to all of the ceremonies and help with services needed.

Colonel Echaure and Sergeant Keough were selected at the Inter service tournament in June.

The U.S. military team is comprised of the top finisher in each of the services and the two remaining positions go to the next two top qualifiers regardless of service.

Summer moves add new names, faces to AF Entertainment

By Maj. Sherry Turner
Armed Forces Entertainment

Historically, the summer months are normally a period of station changes, and Armed Forces Entertainment is no exception to this. We are now going through a complete changeover for the military side of AFE.

Departing members are the director, **Col. Janice Long**, U.S. Air Force, transferred to Wright-Patterson Air Base in Ohio; entertainment coordinator for the Southwest – Asia circuit, **Capt. Joshua Anderson**, U.S. Marine Corps, transferred to the Language School, Monterey, Calif.; entertainment coordinator for the European-Balkans circuit, **Capt. Joseph Wellman**, U.S. Air Force, transferred to Hospitality School, Orlando, Fla; entertainment coordina-

tor for the Pacific – Alaska circuit, **Maj. Sherry Turner**, U.S. Army, transferred to the Military Police Brigade, Seoul, Korea, and the financial resources officer, **LT Heidi Haskins**, U.S. Navy, transferred to the Department Head School, Newport, R.I..

We welcome aboard the newly assigned members of the staff. Entertainment coordinator for Southwest-Asian circuit, **Capt. Jesse Davidson**, U.S. Marine Corps, arriving from the 3d Battalion, 4th Marines, 29 Palms, Calif., and Fallujah, Iraq, where he was the Battalion Logistics Officer; entertainment coordinator for the Pacific-Alaska circuit, **Capt. Trevor Garrett**, U.S. Army, Commander, HHC 8th Perscom, Yongsan, Korea; entertainment coordinator for the European-Balkan circuit, **Capt. Luke Hardaway**, U.S. Air Force,

arriving from Air Force Services, Readiness and Requirements Division, where he served as a Services officer; Financial Services officer, **LT Angela Kyprianou**, arriving from San Diego Naval Air Station, North Island, Calif., where she served as a pilot in the Helicopter Anti Submarine Squadron Light.

Armed Forces Entertainment will continue to support those that serve our nation far from home, family and friends with the best entertainment possible. AFE has more than 45 tours scheduled between now and October to include artists such as, Denver Broncos Cheerleaders, Comics on Duty, David Hasselhoff, Utah Jazz Dance Team, Brickfoot, Wayne Newton, Keni Thomas & Cornbread, and many others.

Check our website: www.armedforcesentertainment.com for upcoming tours.

A Services commentary

Club membership really matters

By Capt. Michael Rakoczy
374th Services Division

I got my club card on my second day of active duty right after I met my first commander. I barely recall that first meeting, but I distinctly remember him saying "got your club card yet? No? Well, you might want to go get one."

I walked out and passed our first sergeant, who had heard everything.

"So LT, do you know what just happened?" he asked.

I said I think I'd just been ordered to join the club. As in right now. He smiled and said "you might just go far in this Air Force."

That was more than 10 years ago and even then it was no longer the norm. If you sit in the lounge and talk with the "old timers" they'll tell you grand stories about the

way the clubs used to be, how they were the social center of the base and how if something needed to get done, it got done over a cold drink after work.

However, they don't rhapsodize about the forced memberships and the clear-cut lack of opportunity if you weren't a member that came with it, and for good reason.

It has been a long time since an Enlisted Performance Report or Officer Performance Report went to the wing with "club member!" as a stratification bullet.

We choose, or choose not to be, a club member all on our own. Simply put, Air Force clubs require our membership to exist.

They've been that way since Congress changed how they're funded back in the late 80's. They don't for the

most part get any congressional money.

No, they will live or die by our support and as long as we believe they are worth keeping, they'll be around.

I'd argue not supporting the clubs degrades our mission and sets the standards for our subordinates to follow.

It hit me that I've never been to an Air Force awards ceremony that didn't take place in either the Enlisted or Officers' Club.

Whether it's to recognize our new promotees, con-

gratulate our Airman Leadership School graduates or to praise our newest group or wing-level award winners, it's always in the club.

I can't even imagine taking our traditions downtown.

What does it say to hold our ALS graduations in a nearby hotel conference room?

What message would we be sending to our youngest troops, the ones we're trying to convince that our way of life is worth living, that this is the career choice they want to make?

I believe the clubs have always supported our Air Force community and the mission and that is worth far more to me than cheaper meal prices and the comfort of another credit card.

My first club card came with a little arm twisting, but I've paid my dues ever since without a complaint.

Over a cold one a while ago (in an Officers' Club, I might add) a non-member told me they'll never let the clubs close – they're tradition! For our mission's sake, I hope he was right.



Four Patrick Services' programs tops in AFSPC

By Staff Sgt. Patrick Brown
45th SW Public Affairs

The 45th Services Squadron at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., edged out nine Air Force Space Command bases to win four awards for having the best golf program, Information Ticket and Tours program, marina and, as a sort of final salute to a wing icon, the best Officers' Club in Space Command.

This is the second year in a row the ITT office was named best in Space Command. Terri Holst, ITT manager, said that she's proud that her

office has been recognized twice in a row.

Ms. Holst said there are several factors that may have contributed to this year's award. Among them is their wide variety of ticket packages – more than 100, and the fact that they are the second busiest stateside ITT Office. She said she's certain, however, that the employees who work along side her were a major contributor to the award.

"I couldn't ask for a better team of people to work with," she said.

Customer service is a specialty for the

Manatee Cove Marina as well. They won the award for the second year in a row despite operating from a portable unit since hurricanes devastated their building last summer.

Jim Hickey, Manatee Cove Golf Course director, attributes outstanding customer service from his employees to winning the award for best golf program for the sixth consecutive time.

While all of the award winners have impressive track records, the sorely missed Patrick Officers' Club has one to be proud of

as well. This year's award was its eighth in a row.

Johnnie Rivera, Tides manager and former Officers' Club manager, is quick to give credit to those who surround him. He said the core reason for the club's success is what he calls its number one resource -- its employees.

"This award is a reflection of the hard work that everyone here put into making everything happen," he said. "They (the employees) have been through so much lately and they really deserve this award."



Kirtland Summer Bash 2005 a big success

Orbit, the Albuquerque, N.M., Isotopes baseball team mascot, gets mobbed by kids from the Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., Gibson child development center during the annual Summer Bash. Photo by Todd Berenger

Offutt Services crew provides comfort to hurricane victims

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

Some Airmen wear the uniform for quite a while before they truly learn what it means to be in the Air Force. It took Airman 1st Class Keith Torgersen only 10 months.

Airman Torgersen is a services specialist with the 55th Services Squadron. He, and about 20 of his peers from Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., arrived at New Orleans to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency's effort to evacuate civilians from New Orleans.

Airman Torgersen provided much needed support to evacuees upon their arrival at the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, a major staging area for moving evacuees out of the city.

"Mostly I was handing out water to people," he said.

Supporting victims of Hurricane Katrina was the first temporary duty of his short 10-month Air Force career. For him, it was an eye opener, and maybe even the moment when he first realized what it truly means to serve your country.

"It makes you feel like you're accomplishing something great," he said.

Senior Airman Michele Gaines, 55th SVS, also helped out with handing out water. But her experience as a mother of two left her more suited to help out the many infants that came with their parents from the flooded city.

"We helped out with the babies," she said. "It was kind of sad, being a mom, to see kids who've had no food and water for a few days. It's kind of hard."

One particular child will probably stick in Airman Gaines's mind for

some time. She is a prematurely born infant, a twin with a medical condition that had gone unattended for too long.

"They had one child that had a shunt, and the shunt was swollen," Airman Gaines said. "She and her family had been stuck on a bridge for a few days. They were medically evacuated out of here though. We helped out with that."

Senior Airman Stacy Pitts, 55th SVS, also helped out with the babies she found waiting with their parents to evacuate the city.

"When I was helping out, mostly with the babies, I enjoyed doing that," she said. "When they bring the babies in they looked like they were dehydrated or needed diapers. That's what I did yesterday and the day before."

Airman Pitts has been in the Air Force almost six years now.

She has deployed twice to Southwest Asia so far, but that didn't prepare her for helping with the New Orleans evacuation.

"Just seeing these people sick and homeless," she said. "It was something I couldn't handle when I first got here, but you adjust to it."



Record low pressure, 125 mph winds and high tides converged to create a storm surge that raised the level of the Back Bay nearly 30 feet above normal. This restroom lies between the 12th and 13th holes on back nine of the golf course at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. Courtesy photo



Photo by Ellis Neel

By 2nd Lt. Melissa Stevens
Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., Public
Affairs

The 49th Fighter Wing at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., welcomed a new addition to the base recently with the grand opening of the Heritage Center.

The center, located behind Heritage Park on First Street, will be home to the complete history of Holloman, as well as the base Honor Guard.

Col. Andrew Papp, 49th Fighter Wing deputy commander, said Holloman has needed this facility for a long time for two reasons.

"The 49th FW has a long and very distinguished history and this place is the center to showcase that," he said. "It is also a facility which will be well used by our outstanding Honor Guard, the

centerpiece of what we are very proud of here."

Colonel Papp said the joining of the Honor Guard and the historical section of the Heritage Center together into one building is very appropriate.

"It's also appropriate that we have not only the history of the flying part of the 49th Fighter Wing, but we also have the Test Group's history and we even have a small piece of German history,"

he said. "So, we kind of have a flavor of the entire base here at the Heritage Center."

Mr. Dan Larsen, 49th Maintenance Group technical orders clerk and self proclaimed history buff, said the memorabilia inside the Heritage Center will cover the history of Holloman, going as far back as when it was created as the Alamogordo Army Airfield to the present.

Mr. Larsen himself has contributed more than 100 personal manhours to bring the historical memorabilia at the Heritage Center to life.

Tech. Sgt. Marty Haynes, the Holloman Honor Guard NCO in charge, has also contributed a lot to the development of the Heritage Center.

"I had the privilege of being able to work with the architects and give direct input into its design," he said. "So, I feel that I can honestly say that I designed the facility with their help, rather than being given a facility with no input at all."

He said the center is fantastic and it will give the Honor Guard a new and larger home, with room to expand their manning, and indoor space for all of the Honor Guard's equipment. The facility also boasts a large marching pad for drill practice.

USAFE announces Youth of Year

Jose Tovar, a family member at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, was recently selected as the U.S. Air Forces in Europe 2005 USAFE Youth of the Year.

Mr. Tovar, age 17, is the son of Jose and Elsa Tovar, both teachers for Department of Defense Dependents Schools in the Spangdahlem AB area.

The Youth of the Year Program recognizes superior leadership

skills, academic achievement, and outstanding service to the community. By receiving this honor young Tovar will be awarded a \$3,000 scholarship for post high school education.

He was selected from 13 candidates for his service to Spangdahlem AB youth programs and community, his academic achievements, and moral, ethical and family values.

He was also named the European Youth of the Year and will compete

for the Northeast Regional Youth of the Year in New York City.

Initiative, public service and personal development are qualities exemplified by all base-level Youth of the Year winners.

Mr. Tovar and the other candidates were honored at the Youth of the Year ceremony in Washington, DC.

Article courtesy USAFE



Moving on out

Airman 1st Class Stephanie Smothers and Senior Airman Melvin Marshall of the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., honor guard move a clothing rack from the old honor guard location on the side of the dining hall to the new location in the furniture management building. The Honor guard is moving out to make room for the new Airmen's center. Photo by Airman 1st Class Frank Snider

D-M Fitness Center 'Premier Facility'

By Staff Sgt. Cat Casaigne
Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.,
Public Affairs

The Department of Defense notified base officials recently that the Davis-Monthan Fitness Center was recognized as a DoD Premier Facility.

In 2004, the 355th Services Squadron won its share of awards. The Inn on Davis-Monthan won the Innkeeper Award. The Fitness Center received its second 5-Star rating as well as the Air Combat Command Services

Fitness Programs and Plans Award.

"The Air Force submits an annual DoD Fitness Center Standards Compliance report which assesses whether a base meets standards for facilities, programs, equipment and staff excellence," said Capt. Sirena Morris, 355th Services Squadron Combat Support Flight commander. "A facility must score 100 percent in all categories to receive DoD Premier Facility recognition."

Fitness centers in ACC are recognized for their quality of

programs and facility excellence — the U.S. Air Force 5-Star Facility and the DoD Premier Facility Programs. The D-M Fitness Center was first designated as a 5-Star Facility in 2003, making it the first 5-Star Facility in ACC and one of 11 in the Air Force. ACC Fitness Centers are assessed annually through the U.S. Air Force 5-Star program. Over the last two years, ACC has increased the number of 5-Star Fitness

Centers from one to four. Those receiving 5-Star

ratings are recognized with a plaque at the annual Athletic Business Conference.

Currently, Davis-Monthan, Dyess Air Force Base, Texas; Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. and Langley Air Force Base, Va., have achieved 5-Star excellence recognition and all have achieved DoD Premier Facility status.

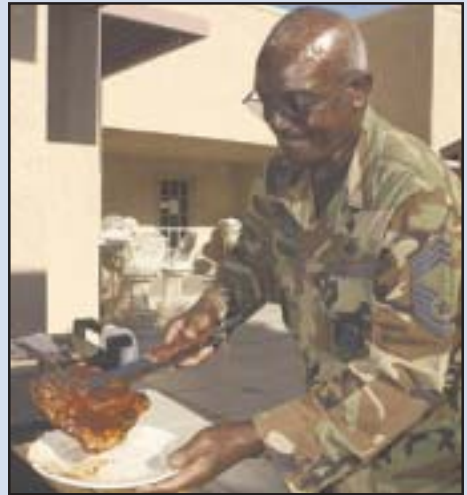
According to the letter informing commanders of the accomplishment, these bases are the first in the Air Force to achieve that status.

"Receiving this recognition shows how dedicated the D-M Fitness Center staff is to making sure our Airmen are fit to fight and physically ready to deploy," said Col. Cesar Rodriguez, 355th Mission Support Group commander. "I am extremely proud of the work they have accomplished. They are an integral reason why MSG ROCKS."

The D-M Fitness Center will receive official recognition at the annual Athletic Business Conference in Orlando, Fla.

Rack 'em up

Chief Master Sgt. Robert McCain, 99th Services Squadron Readiness NCO in charge, pulls a half-rack of ribs off the grill recently at the Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Enlisted Club's "Butchers Choice" night. The club hosts Butchers Choice night every Wednesday, during which customers can cook their own steak or ribs. Photo by Staff Sgt. Kenny Kennemer



Fireworks, carnival rides mark end of Robins summer

Left, Summer Bash concludes with fireworks over the Robins Air Force Base, Ga., Duck Lake. The display lit the sky with an array of color and could be heard for miles around. Entertainment included the Air Force Reserve Command Generation Band, Katie Randall, Kaysea Bucher (both winners from the Family and Teen Talent Show) and Southern Charm. Photos by Sue Sapp

Below, Gabi Alonzo, 14 months old, and Angel Rivera ride a carnival ride at Robins Park. Despite intermittent rain, Services estimates more than 5,000 people came out to enjoy the rides, sports, food and fireworks.



Outdoor Rec upgrades to new location



Outdoor Recreation clerk Deborah VanHoozer helps a customer rent equipment in the center's new location at the old Kelly golf course. Photo by Laurie Mont

By Laurie Mont
Lackland Air Force
Base, Texas, Public
Affairs

The Outdoor Recreation center has moved from its old location at Bldg. 7214 to Bldg. 871, which is located at the old Kelly golf course.

The new center is about three times

as big as the previous one. The move was necessary so that Outdoor Rec could be closer to and serve as a hub for the sports complex.

Recreation clerk Deborah VanHoozer says that Outdoor Rec is in the process of buying new pieces of equipment. They will

soon offer paintball and frisby golf supplies, four new campers and three new ski boats.

Mrs. VanHoozer showed a lot of enthusiasm about the upgraded location.

"I'm really excited about what they're doing out here. I think it's fantastic," she said.

Misawa dining facility opens up to all

By Senior Airman Terri Barriere
Misawa Air Base,
Japan, Public Affairs

The Grissom Dining Facility at Misawa Air Base, Japan, has opened its doors to the entire active duty community. Now not only can meal card holders and temporary duty personnel dine at the facility, but service members receiving basic housing allowance will also be able to eat lunch and dinner at the Grissom Dining Facility and the Falcon Feeder.

"After the renovations were completed, the staff

needed to acquaint itself with the new layout and food service equipment," said Master Sgt. JeanLuc Tetrault, Grissom Dining Facility manager. "We are ready to serve additional customers, such as those on BAS for lunch and dinner."

The change will be in effect until further review by base leadership.

Since Air Force Dining facilities operate using appropriated funds and are designated for enlisted personnel only, dependents and officers will be permitted to eat there only for

special advertised meals, such as Deployed Spouses' meals.

"During the holidays of Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and the Air Force birthday, spouses and dependent children of enlisted members in the ranks of E-1 through E-4 will pay only the discount rate, meaning the 33 percent surcharge will be waived," said Senior Master Sgt. Ray Magby, 35th Services Squadron.

Sergeant Tetrault said the change will have a positive effect on the Misawa community.



Tech. Sgt. Andy Bellamy, left, and Staff Sgt. Louis Rivers eat lunch in the Grissom Dining Facility. Photo by Senior Airman Terri Barriere

This will allow BAS supervisors and peers a chance to see what their troops and friends are eating and enjoying every day, and yet it offers a different dining experience for others.

"The food was great and didn't cost much," said Senior Master Sgt. Donald Koser, Wing History office. "I was impressed with the variety of meals they had available. In Misawa. I will eat there again, likely a few times a month."

Kirtland Jetsetters Torch Club nabs excellence award

By Jennifer West
Nucleus journalist

The Kirtland Youth Programs Jetsetters Torch Club received the Staples Torch Club Merit Award in the National Service Project category for their environmental project at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park.

The award from the Boys and Girls Clubs of America with Staples Foundation for Learning, Inc., recognizes programs that reinforce the

importance of caring for the environment through renewing, preserving and beautifying outdoor spaces, while members develop a sense of personal responsibility for protecting the environment.

Torch Club leader and Kirtland Youth Programs School-Age Program assistant Christina Wells, said the youth workers, "appreciated nature better" after the project.

"They went back to the nature center

and were excited to see how things had changed since they worked there," she said.

The youth workers, 9-13 years old, planted new trees to replace cottonwoods, built bird shelters and cleaned debris at the park.

"Besides that they worked hard and had a great time doing it, they learned a lot about the nature of the Rio Grande area," Ms. Well said.

During the eight-week project, the 15



Zach McColgan prunes vegetation in the Rio Grande Nature Center during the Kirtland Youth Programs Torch Club environmental project that won the National Staples Torch Club Merit Award. Courtesy photos



Award-winning Kirtland Youth Programs Torch Club members work at Rio Grande Nature Center.

youth worked about two hours each Wednesday, documenting every aspect of the project.

"I am very excited that our group won this award," said Darlene McMillon, the other club leader and School-Age Program assistant. "The kids worked very hard, they were very dedicated ... I am proud to be part of a wonderful group like this."

The club received \$500 cash for their award; the funding will be used for supplies for future projects of the club.

Torch Club members are: Summer Halverson; Desiree Wake; Grant Bell; Aries Marquez; Holly Farren; Chris Wade; Alex Wade; Marian Martin; Naveed Jafari; Meagan Krueger; Collin Wheeler; Alysia Johnson, Zach and Luke McColgan.

Holloman family member programs rate high in DOD no-notice inspection

By Tech. Sgt. Ray Bowden
Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., Public Affairs

The Department of Defense uses an annual, no-notice inspection to ensure its family member programs perform in accordance with applicable regulations. All military installations with active family member services programs are susceptible to this week-long inspection.

"These inspections are very important because they validate the family member programs we have in place and how well we're doing our jobs," said Lt. Col. Christopher Toste, 49th Mission Support Group deputy commander at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M.

Sue Misener, 49th Services Squadron family member programs flight chief, received a phone call recently from the team of inspectors saying, "We're here."

In this particular instance, the inspectors arrived at the Holloman Child Development Center on the morning and stayed until the afternoon of the fourth day, inspecting every facet of Team Holloman's family member programs.

"The inspectors make a thorough sweep of every family member program facility and inspected more than 100 different items: everything from paperwork to how the staff members perform in accordance with regulations," said Ms. Misener.

"Even the school menus are rated," she said.

Inspectors also appraised fire prevention measures, office and

classroom environments, the youth and teen center, parent participation and child abuse protection services.

After a week of intense scrutiny, the Holloman family member programs received an outstanding overall rating: inspectors graded the family child care center at 96 percent and the Child Development Center and school age programs both received scores of 90 percent.

Ms. Misener chalks the success up to the diligence and hard work of the family services staff.

"Every staff member does the best job they can," she said. "They're dedicated to providing a safe, nurturing environment for the children."

Lt. Col. Carleton Hirschel, 49th Services Squadron commander, called the results "stellar" and said he had no doubt the inspection would go well.

"This score comes as no surprise," he said. "We've known we're the cream of the crop for a while and this type of excellence extends to all 49th Services programs."

According to Department of Defense Family Policy instruction, a low score will result in a re-inspection, which usually occurs within 60 to 90 days of the original inspection. If the inspectors find major discrepancies, the facilities could be closed, said Ms. Misener.

This is Ms. Misener's third family member programs inspection. She says she is confident they will continue to exceed standards.

Team Holloman's family member programs provide children with an atmosphere that fosters learning and growth in a safe, healthy environment promoting cognitive, social, physical and emotional development, he said.



Eielson Honor Guard supports Fairbanks' Lend-Lease Plaza dedication

Plaza dedication. The monument, located just north of the Rabinowitz Courthouse in Fairbanks, commemorates the Lend-Lease program between the United States and Russia during World War II. Photo by Airman 1st Class Justin Weaver

Books just one chapter in library story

By Wayne Amann
37th Services Division

If, as the saying goes, you can't tell a book by its cover, then the same could be said for the building where books are found.

The three facilities comprising the 37th Services Division library operation at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, are part of the Air Force Library and Information System. Its slogan is "Your Worldwide Information Connection."

That's what Lackland's Main Library, plus the Kelly and Patient branches are all about.

"We're not a warehouse for books any more, although we continue to do all the traditional things," Lackland Library Director Jim Mainord said. "We go outside the box to package information and move it out to people."

Information is taken from the only Patient Library in the Air Force and delivered to bedrid-

den patients at Wilford Hall Medical Center. Last year alone the branch conducted 1,024 ward visits reaching 11,015 patients including combat casualties.

Lackland library resources are taken to all three Child Development Centers to further their children's story hour program. Young reader attendance surged to an all-time record 814 in 2004.

To directly support the military mission 110 library orientations/class sessions were given in 2004 to 5,916 students at the Defense Language Institute, the Inter-American Air Forces Academy, Non-Commissioned Officers Academy and the Airman Leadership School.

A recent Headquarters Air Force Services Agency feedback survey rated the library the No. 1 Lackland Services activity.

With approximately 70,000 volumes, Lackland houses the largest general library in



Lacklanders use Main Library resources. While computers are in the forefront of information gathering in today's Air Force library system, books are still one of the backbones of the operation. Photo by Wayne Amann

the Air Force. No other base has a Main Library and two branches.

The latest computer technology permeates the library operation. Last year 134,172 customers used 75 work stations for high-speed T-1 internet connection, scanners, read/write drives, digital camera media, color printers and more.

Thirteen software/hardware/LAN upgrades were made to 123 computers in '04 to enhance customer service. Nineteen new workstations and a customer laptop connection were added to meet accelerating computer access demands.

Research is easier than ever thanks to desktop icons to 11 online services giving immediate access to 63 data bases and another 20 military resources complete with full-text articles, graphics and data to meet every information need.

Seven sound-proof booths of various sizes, a service no other Air Force base offers, support one to four patrons each with audio cassette, CD, VHS and DVD material.

The library assisted 4,502 college students pursue 29 degree programs last year. Another 30,562 students were

helped with seven Professional Military Education and 126 other in-residence training courses.

A record 340,739 customers from Air Force bases worldwide, all military branches, 3,243 foreign students from 136 nations, DoD civilians, retirees and patients were served in 2004. They checked out 392,161 books and other items, setting another record.

"Our customer base dictates the direction our libraries are going. They keep us on the cutting edge," Mr. Mainord said. "We're funded locally but our service is global. It's an amazing place."

Adapting to the new mission at Andersen

By Capt. Bill Charlton
Combat Support Flight Commander

When you think of a forward deployed location, visions of a tent city located in some hot, dusty, foreign desert environment come to mind, but that image is the exact opposite for almost a thousand Airmen deployed to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

This deployed location is not only an American territory, but it is also a tropical island set in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Rough, no. Hazardous, no.

But a deployment to Andersen and 36th Services role in providing quality of life for the deployed forces comes with its own challenges. For the 36th services squadron personnel, providing exceptional quality of life to deployed troops is our mission.

Due to mission requirements and because of our outstanding response and exceptional Services personnel, Andersen Lodge successfully expanded its capability 400 percent by lodging Airmen two, three and four per room.

Capt. Bruce Staufer and the lodging staff work diligently to maximize quality of life with Andersen's 1950s-era facilities.

Additionally, the Magellan Inn dining facility has stepped up to the challenge of feeding a 300 percent increase in customers.

Second Lt. Carlos Colon, Master Sgt. Bryan Strickner and team accepted this challenge by activating a second line for two additional meal periods, doubling the amount of registers, and expanding the hours of operations.



Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, sometimes called "The Pearl of the Pacific."
Courtesy photo

They also changed how they were using their people, equipment, and infrastructure. Working hand-in-hand with their civilian counterparts enabled them to be a leaner yet more productive staff.

As a result, the dining facility staff is now providing more than 46,000 meals a month and is committed to providing each patron with outstanding customer service. They've managed to meet their challenge with minimal manning support and saved the Air Force more \$200,000 in contract costs.

This is great news during dire financial times and illustrates the spectacular job the staff is doing to ensure sound management of Air Force resources.

Although not considered part of the new ops tempo here at Andersen, Services proudly opened the new \$16M fitness center in March. Compared to the old center the new center provides 300 percent more square footage, and 66 percent more fitness equipment.

Our Fitness Center director, Gerry Barnes, is constantly improving his

program to exceed expectations. For example, he expanded hours to exceed the Air Force standard by 137 percent and increased programming by 40 percent through successfully introducing new aerobics classes, personal training opportunities, and indoctrinating the deployed Airmen into intramural leagues; all this with 50 percent manning.

The last of the flight that has expanded its programming to support the new customer base is the Andersen Library, and what an outstanding job the library staff has done. Mr. R.A. Meyer, reference librarian, has successfully turned a typical library into an activity offering a diverse menu of programming.

New programs include Air Force History tours, monthly guest speakers, movie-themed discussion groups, and a 40 percent increase in internet computers stalls.

The Service team has stepped up to the challenge of improving the quality of life for those deployed to our Pacific paradise.

Tyndall SVS CC sees AF as 'treasure trove of diversity'

By Lt. Col. Marc
Piccolo
325th Services
Squadron commander

When I was growing up, I heard at least five different languages on almost a daily basis.

In my house I heard some Italian and a few words of Polish. In the neighborhood I'd hear Lithuanian, Polish, Russian and German.

Our local community was populated with people from all over the world who had come to the United States seeking a better life.

They were all different and all very interesting in their own way. I used to hear stories about the "old country" all the time. These stories seemed to have a common ending. Although they missed their native land, they were all happier to be in the United States.

It's been said that one of America's greatest strengths is

its historical willingness to accept people from different backgrounds.

Back then I used to fall asleep on summer nights listening to Boston Red Sox baseball games on the radio. I'd hear names like Yastremski, Tiant, Lee, Petrocelli, Rice and Beniquez. It amazed me that a group of guys who spoke different languages, had different personalities and had a variety of economic and social backgrounds could perform so well as a team.

That team had great talent, big dreams, a lot of determination and they weren't afraid of a challenge. In 1975 the Red Sox gave their fans as

much excitement as they could handle.

That diverse group of ball players went all the way to the World Series — only to be denied a championship by Pete Rose and Cincinnati's "Big Red Machine."

I think my early introduction to diversity has a lot to do with why I enjoy the Air Force so much. In the Air Force, we place a high value on diversity. We cherish it as a characteristic that makes our team stronger.

My squadron, the 325th "Services Clan," is a treasure trove of diversity. In Services we've got an assortment of military, civil service and contract workers operating 35 distinct commu-

nity support activities.

A quick survey recently turned up team members who were born in eight different countries and 22 different states. The youngest troop is 18, and the "most experienced" employee on our team is 71.

We've got Vietnam veterans and Gulf War veterans (I and II). We've got a great variety of religious preferences and a host of economic and social backgrounds.

What makes it all work? Just like those Red Sox of old, we've got a common vision and we value each other's talents and experiences. We know that our contributions as individuals,

combined with the contributions of others, can produce remarkable results.

We share core values, and we share the same sense of satisfaction that comes with being part of a successful team.

The Air Force welcomes anyone with talents, desires, a determination to take on the toughest challenges and the willingness to dream the biggest dreams.

Diversity is about finding a way to support the infinite characteristics that make each of us unique individuals with important contributions to make.

Take the time to celebrate the diversity where you work.



Change that diaper!

Let the baby games begin

By Terry Jones
Pope Air Force Base,
N.C., Community
Center director

The Pope Air Force Base, N.C., Community Center hosted the Baby Olympics recently. Although it lacked the traditional marathon and gymnastics of the summer games, the

contest brought out the best in parents and children alike.

The contest featured three age categories: those up to age eight months; 9 to 12 months; and 13 to 26 months.

The day's grueling (and sometimes drooling) events selected the baby with the

chubbiest cheeks, the longest eyelashes, the most hair, the least hair and the baby who looked most like their parent. In addition, a father and baby diaper changing contest was added in the up to age eight month and 9 to 12 month age brackets.

The diaper changing contest was a fan favorite, as fathers used a wide range of strategies to complete their task. Some mothers present were astonished at the accuracy and speed of their male counterparts in changing the diapers. The judges were somewhat bewildered but pleasantly surprised.

Prizes for the contest ranged from baby rattlers to wagons. Each parent and child duo was given a disk with various family photos and a certificate of participation. Judges were Senior Airman

Jawanica Nichols,
43rd Comptroller
Squadron, Tech.
Sgt. Michelle Morris,

43rd CPTS and
Senior Airman
Harron Wilson, 43rd
Services Squadron.



Pope Air Force Base, N.C., fathers test their speed and agility in the diaper changing race at the recent Baby Olympics. Photo by Mike Murchison

And the winners are:

Up to eight months

Chubbiest Cheeks — Jesalyn Osheim (Jonathan Osheim)

Longest eyelashes — Paul Miner (Kerry Anne Miner)

Most hair — Donovan Perry (Andrea and Brian Perry)

Least hair — Kasey Cox (Ben and Stephanie Cox)

Most looks like parent — Jensen Osheim (Jonathan Osheim)

Father/baby diaper changing — Kasey Cox (Ben Cox)

9-12 months

Chubbiest cheeks and most hair — Lauren Pepin (John and Unda Pepin)
Longest eyelashes, least hair and most looks like parent — Avery Edgar (Kacy and Tommy Edgar)

Father/baby diaper changing — tie between Lauren Pepin (John) and Avery Edgar (Tommy)
13-26 months
Chubbiest cheeks — Tyler Pearson (Jennifer and Jedidiah Pearson)
Longest eyelashes — (tie) Betyna Fowler (Christian and Tynnishua Fowler) and Karleigh Wade (Kevin and Keely Wade)

Most hair — Betyna Fowler

Least hair — Tyler Pearson

Most looks like parent — Paul Maskery (Scott Maskery)

2,450 pounds of food; 800 pounds of clothing Lackland Summer drive a huge success

By Terryca Fuller
Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Family Support Center

Thanks to Team Lackland and Master Sgt. Edward Edgar, the Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Family Support Center and Family Services received 2,450 pounds of food and 800 pounds of clothing and other items for the emergency food locker and Airman's Attic.

Sergeant Edgar, 345th Training Squadron, was the main point of contact that encouraged more than 20 units to get involved with this food and clothing drive.

He said, "It's a great way to help our own."

The food locker helps all service members stationed at Lackland –

Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines - whose cupboards would otherwise be bare until the next payday.

The Air Force Aid Society and the Family Support Center personal financial managers see more than 1,800 customers a year, and many of them have need of the emergency food locker.

From January 2004 until now the food locker has been used by 133 families.

During the holiday seasons, it is used even more. Normally visits to the food locker are arranged by financial managers, commanders or first sergeants, but walk-ins are also accepted.

The food locker is completely funded by charity.

The Airman's Attic, which is open to military ID cardholders and their families, has a variety of items including clothes, baby items, toys, uniforms and small household items.

Other donations from Team Lackland included 250 pounds of food from Air Force Village II and the 59th Medical Wing Airman's Council donated food and a check for \$804.

The council also had two Airmen volunteers do the shopping with the money donated. They are Senior Airmen Norma Mitchell and Twyla Cox, 59th Medical Support Squadron.

Since items are donations, there is no cost for using the attic



Just beat it

Members of the Maturiza Taiko Drummers, from Disney's Epcot Center, perform at The Tides at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., during an Asian-Pacific American heritage celebration. The display showcased the unique sights and sounds of the Japanese drums. The cultural recognition event also featured a sampling of food from various Asian-Pacific areas. Photo by Jim Laviska

During Operation Purple, Eielson youth enjoyed learning lessons

By Staff Sgt. William Farrow
Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, Public Affairs

S'mores, archery and hiking didn't completely take their minds off Ali, Djibouti or Al Salem, but just knowing other children attending Operation Purple had heard of these

places too seemed to ease the anxiety they may have had concerning their parents' deployments.

The one-week camp at the Lost Lake Boy Scout Camp 25 miles south of Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, was designed to bring children in similar situations together and give them an opportunity

to share their experiences. Filling the cabins were 13 Air Force and 27 Army dependents between the ages of 9 and 15 years old.

Operation Purple was sponsored by the National Military Families Association, the Armed Services YMCA, funded by the retail chain Sears and implemented by Eielson AFB Youth Programs.

"The key purpose of Operation Purple is to communicate with children of deployed service members, assuring them that if their dad or mom is deployed and

they're anxious or angry, that it's okay," said Janna Urschel, Armed Services YMCA program assistant. "We let them know that their feelings are normal, but they have to channel it in a positive way," she said.

Though not many children actually talked about their feelings on the subject of their parents' deployment, Airman 1st Class Angela Sutton, who volunteered to serve as a chaperone for 12-14 year old girls, said everybody working at the camp was ready to listen.

"It was a great camp for the kids, it kept them busy and at certain sessions the topic of a parents' deployment would come up and we would discuss it," Airman Sutton said. "Most children were open and understood that it's their parent's duty (to deploy), others clammed up and it scared them that their parent was about to be leaving for a long period of time."

The curriculum used to help children grapple with fears or anxieties related to their parents' deployment was based on a manual called "Military Kids Can COPE with Deployment" that was developed by the NMFA.

"I had a lot of fun, especially swimming and making new friends," said 10-year-old Jasmine Dierenfield. She also said she took a lot from "cope" and would apply it by always trying to look on the positive side when she was away from her father, Tech. Sgt. Fred Dierenfield, 354th Maintenance Squadron.



During Operation Purple, children participated in a game called "Trust" where they were required to trust their peers when asked to fall backwards into their arms. The camp took place at Lost Lake. Operation Purple was open to children whose parents are deployed or were recently deployed. The program allows children from all branches to interact with and learn from each other to help deal with deployment-related stress. Photo by Airman 1st Class Anthony Nelson.

Malmstrom's FamCamp gears up for Lewis and Clark commemoration

By Senior Airman John Parie
Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont., Public Affairs

With the ongoing Lewis and Clark commemoration throughout central Montana, the FamCamp at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont., is expecting an increased number of people staying at the two camp-grounds.

"We anticipate having more recreational vehicles staying during the summer to participate in some of the Lewis and Clark celebrations," said Jeff Pavlowski, 341st Services Outdoor Recreation director.

The Gateway FamCamp located right outside the main gate offers

on-site bath-rooms and laundry facilities, 50-amp service, water, electric and sewer hook-ups.

The pads are paved, drive-through pads.

The camp is open to all military identification card holders on a first-come, first-served basis.

The annex on base has bath-rooms, 30-amp service, water, electric and sewer hook-ups.

The pads are gravel, back-in pads. The size at the annex is limited to 30-foot RV's.



A monument is set up at the Gateway FamCamp site at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont., commemorating Lewis and Clark's journey, which passed through where the camp is located. Photo by Senior Airman John Parie

"The main benefit to staying at our FamCamp is price," Mr. Pavlowski said. "Customers can save about \$28 per night staying at our camps."

Each site has an onsite camp host who can help with problems, said Mr. Pavlowski.



To all the grills I knew

Airman 1st Class Marcelo Sierra, 325th Services Squadron food service specialist, serves up a meal for a couple of Airmen at the Berg-Liles Dining Facility at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. The dining facility changed its midnight meal hours. Midnight meals are now available from 11:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

Lessons learned from lemonade

Roger Miller, Vance Air Force Base, Okla., Youth Programs manager, reads the story of Alex's Lemonade Stand to Youth Center children, preparing them for their lemonade sale held recently to raise money for children's cancer research. Vance AFB youth raised \$175.58 for their efforts. Courtesy photo



Nellis library issues reading challenge

By Kellie Mendonca
99th Services Squadron

Fire breathing dragons, knights in shining armor – the “Joust Read” program began as members of the Adrian Empire of the Kingdom of Albion welcomed all and gave Renaissance-style presentations recently at the sports park at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Joust Read is the base library's reading program for all ages — pre-readers, children and adults.

At the park, knights sparred with gleaming swords, costumed lords and ladies served mugs of cold water and

gave away small bells for good luck. A brave young man breathed billows of fire into the sky, and then ‘ate’ the remaining ball of flame.

Guests signed up for a free dragon book raffle and more than 150 children and adults signed up for summer reading.

“No boring book reports’ is my motto,” said Gail Santy, Nellis children's librarian. “Kids sign up to read five books and do five projects.”

Projects included drawings, posters, ID cards for book characters or clay models. Projects were displayed at the library.

After reading a book, children chose a prize from the prize box or a free book, and also got chances to win grand prizes such as magic wands, castle play sets, games, interlocking building sets, stuffed animals and more.

“There are no rules for adults,” said Ms. Santy. “Adults who model good reading behavior for the kids got to enter in a weekly drawing for a \$25 commissary gift certificate.”

There were many “Joust Read” events that base people could get involved in: The Adrian Empire lent its members for some



Members of the Adrian Empire of the Kingdom of Albion clash words for Nellis library summer reading program participants. Courtesy photo

Saturday workshops on the library patio.

Her Majesty Dame Ashlinn instructed teens and adults in the fine art of Shakespearean insults.

Children's librarians showed how to create magic

bottles to take home.

Lord Gregor demonstrated how to design a personalized coat of arms.

The Nellis reading program ended with a library patio party.

Knights in shining armor seen at Luke library reading program

**By Erica Reece
56th Services Squadron**

Merry maidens, knights in shining armor and fire-breathing dragons were recently spotted near the Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., Library. When asked about these sightings, Library Director Katie Gillen confirmed that the mysterious visitors were part of the 2005 youth reading program.

"We were excited to announce two reading programs this year," said Ms. Gillen. "After reading for school all year,

we were hoping to encourage the children in the Luke community to read for fun and for pleasure."

For children who are preschool age through 12 years old, the program was entitled "Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds."

Special programs included a visit to the library from the Society for Creative Anachronism, fiber crafts with a Celtic reenactment group, a wildlife demonstration from Raptors, Inc., and an exploration of how clothing and fashions from that

period differ from fashions today. At the first session, children were given a log to track daily reading over the course of the program.

Each week children who accomplish their goals received a prize.

At the end of the six-week program, children who completed their goals were entered into a drawing for grand prizes.

New this year was a teen reading program sponsored by the Luke Library and the 56th Services Squadron

Youth Center. Urging children to "Joust Read," this program encouraged teens to keep reading and provided the opportunity to participate in unique activities.

"This was a fantastic opportunity for the youth center and library to work together to provide a program sparked the interest of the teens," said Pat Sweeney, 56th SVS Youth Center director. "By providing joint programs, we hoped to encourage the Luke community to further explore all the outstanding

activities the services squadron has to offer."

The program kicked off with a poetry slam at the youth center. Other planned programs included an internet scavenger hunt, an interactive medieval mystery party and an overnight vigil (or lock-in).

The grand prize drawing and program finale was after the overnight vigil.

Teens were given a reading log and won prizes for keeping up with daily reading.



Salsa lessons heat up dance floor

Airman 1st Class Marquis Perkins, 726th Air Control Squadron, twirls his wife, Marisol Perkins, at a Salsa class recently at the Mountain Home Air Force Base, Utah, Community Center. After a few salsa moves, they'll both work up a sweat. Salsa is a form of Latin dancing that features a pattern of six steps danced over eight counts of music. Photo by Senior Airman Sergio Aguirre

Cutes and ladders

Peyton Parker, 1, tests out the new playground equipment recently installed at the F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., Child Development Center.
Photo by Airman 1st Class Tessa Cubbon



Lackland SVS soars at AETC

By Wayne Amann
37th Services Division

The 37th Services Division Fitness and Sports and Child Development programs at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, proved at the command level what Lacklanders have known for years: they're the best. The two quality-of-life activities garnered top honors at the recently completed Air Education and Training Command 2005 Program and Flight Awards competition.

Each was judged on program innovation, management, customer focus and satisfaction and operational results. Both advance as command reps to the 2005 Air Force Services Program & Flight Awards in Washington, D.C.

"It's extremely gratifying to compete at Air Force level," said optimistic Flight Chief Jim Craney, whose Combat Support Flight oversees Fitness and Sports.

Six fitness centers make Lackland's fitness and sports operation stand out from other bases, which typically sport less than half that many.

"It's a blessing and a curse," Mr. Craney said. "It's a blessing for our customers but a real challenge for our manpower to support them. I'm proud of our people doing a great job overcoming understaffing and deployments to support the Air Force Chief of Staff's 'Fit To Fight' initiative."

Numbers reflect the huge impact Lackland Fitness and Sports makes on the service-wide initiative. The Gateway offers 43 outdoor athletic venues, 25 sports programs, 33 group exercise programs and an Air Force high six fitness centers.

Those fitness centers were open 555 hours per week in 2004, four times the AETC average. That resulted in a record-setting 1.8 million customer visits for the year with a best-ever local customer satisfaction rating of 98 percent.

Lackland's Child Development Center operation scored a 98 percent customer satisfaction rating in '04. The three child development centers combined to conduct 76 family events attended by more than 12,200 parents.

Day-to-day operations were showcased during an unannounced DoD Certification inspection.

The centers scored 100 percent in fire protection, parent involvement, staffing, nutrition, health, physical environment plus quality care and staff-child interaction.

"Our wonderful flight staff has worked hard to incorporate new programs," Family Programs Flight Chief Marge Green said. "They can feel good about this award."

The flight points with pride to its medically fragile/severe special needs center, the only one of its kind in the Air Force, providing care to extreme special needs children. Staffers at the Kelly CDC hope history repeats itself. While members of the Air Force Materiel Command at the former Kelly Air Force Base, that facility won four times at Air Force level. Twenty-one services program/flight categories were judged this year at the command level.

In her cover letter accompanying the Lackland submissions, 37th Training Wing commander Col. Mary Kay Hertog wrote, "the 37th Services Division's outstanding performance was a critical element in this wing's success in producing fully trained warriors for the United States and its allies."



Brianna Burke, age 10, and Tiana Richardson, age 9, encourage Oreo Bunny out of her cage for some exercise and play time. Photo by April Crampton

Dover AFB wins AMC youth program of year

By April Crampton
436th Services Squadron

The Dover Air Force Base, Del., Youth Center has captured the Air Mobility Command's Youth Programs Award for 2005 with their enthusiasm for children, along with their creative and diverse programs.

"Our youth programs have a high energy commitment to educational development and a dedication to helping the children become the whole person," said Marti Hosterman, Family Member Programs Flight Chief. "The staff does a phenomenal job of discovering the interests of the children and finding programs to match."

"Each program manager is dedicated to finding out what it takes to keep children focused on learning," said Mr. Gary Winings, YC director. "Parents are quite happy with the programs offered and many have stated that they feel the children are extremely happy to be at the Youth Center."

Power Hour is one of the programs offered to the membership

and school age children through the Youth Center. It offers a structured time and place where the staff helps youth with an important aspect of education, homework.

"Power Hour is an important program for the kids and parents," said Roxanne Lee, YC assistant director. "We noticed that it is easier and relaxing for the children to do homework with their peers and our staff support. Also the partnership with staff, parents and teachers help members to emerge better prepared for classes and proud of their accomplishments."

"I do my homework at the Youth Center because I can do it with my friends and get better grades," said Brianna Burke, age 10. "I like doing my homework better at the Youth Center than at home."

Dover AFB is one of the few bases that have an on-going 4-H program.

The Youth Center collaborates with the University of Delaware Extension office. This partnership has helped make the 4-H program become a weekly curriculum of fun

and information. Children can take classes to learn about healthy eating, animals, horticulture, woodworking, photography, leadership, citizenship and all around health.

"As a result of our strong liaison with the 4-H, we have received several grants to keep the programs going," said Ms. Lee. "This curriculum helps the children enrolled in our membership and school program."

The YC has introduced classes such as fencing as a response to surveys given to the children to seek their interests that keep them challenged and happy.

The diversity of appealing activities combined with our caring and extraordinary staff has been instrumental in helping us win the AMC Youth Programs of the year.

"This award is an accumulation of years of hard work from the membership and school-age staff," said Ms. Lee. "We are very proud of our staff."

Nellis lodging opens in October

The new Nellis Inn, located on Fitzgerald Boulevard across from the Pavilion Field at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., is scheduled to open in October. The facility will be the central check-in point for lodging, and will consist of 349 guest rooms. A coffee shop is also scheduled to open inside the Inn. Photo by Staff Sgt. Kenny Kennemer



Community center offers 'Arctic Oasis' for everyone

By Matthew Toussaint
Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, Public Affairs

There's an oasis in the middle of Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. The Arctic Oasis Community Center is one of the biggest indoor Community Centers in Alaska and houses two rainy-day playgrounds for youth big and small.

Another reason the Oasis is so popular is that it has an enclosed gym, according to some of the moms and dads using the fitness equipment.

Many parents have voiced their pleasure that they have the ability to socialize and work out without having to call the baby sitter or worry about how their child is doing in daycare, according to Arctic Oasis staff.

The Oasis also offers an arcade with Playstations, X-Boxes and

many games; there's an indoor batting cage and climbing wall that welcomes climbers and batters alike without the waiting lines that are common at off base activity centers.

There are also various learning opportunities for people of all ages like martial arts programs including: American Kenpo, Kuk Sool Won, Tae Kwon Do, and Flowing Combat Internal Kung-Fu.

Other programs include: baby-sitting classes, provided by a certified Red Cross trainer, gardening classes, belly dancing lessons and for the family, holiday outings that promote family ties, chess tournaments, and more.

Build-a-Boat and Cookie Baking contest are also a popular activity for many people, said Oasis officials. The Community Center staff estimates, on average, they have between 50 and 100 people going in and out of the center each day.



John Nolte watches as his friend Brandon Sams follows through on a swing at the Arctic Oasis' 19-hole miniature golf course.

Hanscom's 'Little Soldiers' honored

Staff Sgt. Lee Feldhausen and his daughters, Kayey, and Breanna, inch their way through a low-crawl obstacle during Hanscom's Warrior, Junior Warrior Day. Photos by Linda LaBonte Britt



By 1st Lt. Martha Petersante-Gioia
Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., Public Affairs

Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., geared up recently and deployed approximately 200 "troops" to the frontlines. Some carried looks of apprehension while others proudly walked down the line with smiles from ear to ear.

But even those who seemed fearful at first began to smile when they approached the medical station and received their "shots." Smiling after a shot? Most people would when you get jelly beans.

The 66th Air Base Wing held it's inaugural Warrior,

Junior Warrior Appreciation day and children of troops who are currently deployed and those whom have deployed throughout the year got to walk in their parent's shoes.

Children ran an obstacle course, tasted Meals Ready to Eat, experienced a simulated deployment line complete with jelly bean immunizations, learned what equipment is currently being used in the field and were awarded Homefront Hero Medals.

This patriotic-themed medal, created by Dawn Andreucci, a community readiness consultant with the Family Support Center, was inspired by the song, "Little

Soldiers" by Jeff Wade Clark.

Mr. Clark, a former military police Soldier, was also on hand to perform. "I have attended other

events similar to this and this one was by far the best," Mr. Clark said. "I am truly humbled to be included."

The inspiration for the song came from fellow soldiers. "I was sitting at home and thinking about the families, especially the

children that have to be strong. The song wrote itself from there," Mr. Clark said.

"When I learned of the Children's Homefront Hero Medal, I was blown away that my song was the inspiration," he said.



Country Western singer Jeff Wade Clark presents a Children's Homefront Hero medal to Haley Hawes. The medals were created by Dawn Andreucci, Family Support Center community readiness consultant after hearing the song, "Little Soldiers."



A Hanscom "Junior Warrior" gets fitted for his gas mask during the simulated deployment line.

42 new TLF units to open

Luke provides comforts of home in new base TLF

**By 2nd Lt. Phil Ventura
Luke Air Force Base,
Ariz., Public Affairs**

The first of 42 new temporary lodging facilities opened recently at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.

The new facilities are able to accommodate families in two and three bedroom units. Amenities include full kitchens with plates, pots and pans and a dishwasher, a carport with private parking, patio, washer and dryer, and furnishings that include queen sized beds and even a crib for a baby.

"We offer all the comforts of home," said Deborah Petti, 56th Services Squadron lodging manager.

The new facilities are 1,200 square feet, triple the size of the old ones, Mrs. Petti said. Plus, they offer more privacy and are located in a quieter area.

Pets are allowed in six of the new units.

"This is a huge quality-of-life improvement for the Luke Thunderbolts and their families," said Capt. Shaloka Reed, 56th SVS Squadron Combat Support Flight commander.

At this time, only families that are undergoing a permanent change of station either to or from Luke are eligible to stay in the facilities, Captain Reed said.

The maximum stay cannot exceed 30 days without

approval from the 56th SVS commander.

During the ribbon cutting ceremony, Col. Robin Rand, 56th Fighter Wing commander, commented on the importance of a comfortable residence for newcomers on base.

"When you first arrive in a new area, the least of your worries should be where you'll be staying," Colonel Rand said.

From the installation of new carpet and laying of tile, to stocking the house with bedspreads and furniture, the conversion of the units from base housing to temporary lodging facilities took the cooperation of many organizations on base and in the community.

The 56th SVS Squadron, 56th Civil Engineer Squadron and contractors Thomasville Furniture and R.L.

Stevens were cited at the ceremony as major contributors to the new facilities.

Converting the units cost more than \$800,000. The funding for the project came from the command lodging funds. Air Education and Training Command provided the funding for the project with money from lodging funds across the command that were above and beyond operating expenses.

Kitchens in the new Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., temporary lodging facilities come fully stocked, including dishes, pots, pans and dishwasher. The new units are 1,200 square feet, triple the size of the previous facilities. Forty-two units will open soon. Photo by Airman Levi Riendeau



Services' Oliver takes second place at car meet



Staff Sgt. Christopher Oliver poses with his 1995 Honda Civic, "Beyond Imagination." His Civic got him second place during the Fourth of July Block Party in Hagatna. Photo by Senior Airman Nestor Cruz

By Senior Airman Nestor Cruz
36th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

An Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, member took second place in a local car show during the recent Fourth of July Block Party in Hagatna.

Staff Sgt. Christopher Oliver, 36th Services Squadron, competed against 85 other cars with his 1995 Honda Civic, dubbed "Beyond Imagination." This was Sergeant Oliver's second car competition; his first was the 2005 Import Nights Car Show in April on Guam.

"This is my first project car, but I've been interested in cars my whole life," said Sergeant Oliver. "I honestly didn't think I would win. This was a 'show and shine' competition, and there were many great-looking cars out there," He said.

Sergeant Oliver attributes his success to his fellow car club members, who supported his project car and entry into the block party car competition. He also credits his father's passion for cars and the moral support given by his first sergeant.

"[Sergeant Oliver] poured his heart, soul, blood, sweat and tears into transforming his car into a sleek, powerful and dynamic street machine," said Master Sgt. Lorna De La Cruz, 36th Services Squadron first sergeant, who is also a car enthusiast.

"It's impressive to see the focus, commitment and creativity Sergeant Oliver expresses in creating this thing of beauty that dazzles with horsepower and torque," Sergeant De La Cruz said.

"Beyond Imagination" features low profile tires, Sport Max rims, scissor-type doors, upgraded suspension and Street Glow neon-lit pedals.

Following the success of his block party car show appearance, Sergeant Oliver is looking forward to entering the 2006 Import Nights car competition and taking home the first place prize.

"I promised myself that before I leave this island, I'm going to take first place in a car competition," said Sergeant Oliver. "I'm gonna make it happen."



Paint into the blue

Beth Hill paints the Air Force symbol on part of a mural inside the enlisted club that depicts some of the duties and services of Airmen around Seymour Johnson. Mrs. Hill is an art teacher at Southern Wayne High School who wanted to thank Team Seymour's Airmen. Photo by Airman 1st Class Frank Snider

Buckley youth attend Purple Camp

By Master Sgt. Jim Randall
Buckley Air Force Base, Colo., Public Affairs

More than 50 young people attended Operation Purple Camp at Buckley Air Force Base, Colo., recently.

The camp, hosted by Buckley's Youth Programs, was designed to show children some of the things that military people do every day and during deployments, according to Ms. Latoya Marble, director of Youth Programs. Most of the kids who attended the camp have a parent deployed overseas.

"The idea behind Operation Purple Camp is to bring children together who are in the same situation. And by going through 'boot camp,' they learn about their parents' jobs," said Ms. Marble.

Knowing what their parents do helps children understand and cope with family separations, accord-

ing to Peter McLeod, who served as the camp's Army team leader.

"It was a lot of fun, and the camp gave me more appreciation for what my parents do," said the 11-year old, whose mother and stepfather are both currently deployed overseas. "The hardest part was getting up at 5:45 a.m. the first day. To wake us up, our instructors came into our tent and started banging on pots and pans."

After "reporting for duty" at the camp, youth were divided into four groups representing the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. On Monday through Thursday, the groups studied a different branch of service each day with volunteer instructors from each branch.

Throughout the week, campers created arts and craft projects and performed a variety of activities designed to help them understand the roles and challenges of

the military branches. The campers learned to march, lived in military tents and had their meals at the base dining facility. During training at Buckley's Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center, participants learned to repair leaks in a training simulator, climbed and rappelled from

a climbing wall and learned how to use firefighting equipment.

Later, 10- and 11-year old participants went to the Colorado State Veterans Home to entertain the residents with patriotic songs and give away some cards that they had made. Older participants traveled to Fort Logan

National Cemetery for a tour and to help clean up the cemetery as a community service project. Before releasing the children back to their parents on Friday afternoon, base officials presented each participant with an Operation Purple Camp medal.



Camp participants wait for their instructors at the community center. More than 50 military youth from Buckley Air Force Base, Colo., attended Operation Purple Camp. Photo by 1st Lt. Carla Gleason

Girl of the West dazzles Academy, Schriever

By Eddie Kovsky
Academy Spirit staff

The 2005 Girl of the West, Amy Jo Fields, recently visited the Academy as ambassador to the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo.

She and Amanda Yopp, aide to the Girl of the West, brought their horses to the visitor's center, cadet area, commissary and the base childcare centers to promote the rodeo. Their visit was only one of about 100 visits the girls make to promote the Rodeo.

"We always make the 100 appearances each year, traveling about 5,000 miles during the summer," said Ms. Fields.

Each year, during the rodeo, a compe-

tition is held to select a new aide to the Girl of the West.

The following year, the aide becomes the Girl of the West and a new aide is selected. The competition is based on horsemanship, speaking ability, personality and appearance.

The Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo is a charitable organization that has donated its proceeds to military families throughout Colorado since World War II.

The Western duo also visited Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., during their 100-appearance tour.

They visited the Schriever Child Development Center and handed out Pikes Peak or bust flyers.



Top photo, the 2005 Girl of the West, Amy Jo Fields (right) and aide Amanda Yopp, visit the Academy as ambassadors to the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo. Photo by Danny Meyer

Bottom photo, Amy Jo Fields, 2005 Girl of the West, and her aide Amanda Yopp pass out Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo flyers to 4- and 5-year-olds at the Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., Child Development Center recently. Competitors for the Girl of the West pageant are graded on appearance, public speaking, personality and horsemanship. Photo by Alex Groves



McConnell Outdoor Rec rebuilds sunken boat

One man's trash is another man's treasure



Master Sgt. Bob Perdue, 22nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and McConnell Air Force Base, Kans., Outdoor Recreation mechanic, tests out the new speed boat at Santa Fe Lake. The boat spent two weeks under six feet of water before it was pulled out. McConnell's Outdoor Recreation received the boat through DRMO. Now, the boat is appraised at \$15,000. Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristine Dreyer

By Staff Sgt. Kristine Dreyer
McConnell Air Force Base, Kans., Public Affairs

McConnell Air Force Base, Kans., Outdoor Recreation tested out one of its newly remodeled speed boats at Santa Fe Lake recently. But it was a long, wet journey to get it into the water.

Recently, a storm hit Laughlin AFB, Texas, and caused two boats to sink. After two weeks under six feet of water, the boats were pulled out of the lake and sent to the Laughlin Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office.

DRMO marked the boats value at \$200, and McConnell's Outdoor Recreation office saw an opportunity and grabbed it.

"When we received the boat, it was shipped to us on pallets," said Master Sgt. Rick Grenier, 22nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and part-time Outdoor Recreation mechanic. "We took the boat and put in a new motor and new carpet, then we painted, sanded and rewired the boat."

Sergeant Grenier along with Joseph Correia, Outdoor Recreation summer hire, and Master Sgt. Bob Perdue, 22nd AMXS and Outdoor Recreation mechanic, worked together to complete the task.

After seven weeks of working on the boat, Outdoor Recreation added the new speed boat (affectionately named McConnell) to its inventory.

"It really was a team effort," said Sergeant Grenier. "Joseph worked on the upholstery and Sergeant Perdue fixed most of the carpet and electrical wiring."

Since the boat had so much water damage, the team had to call on the help of other Team McConnell members.

The 22nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, Vehicle Maintenance shop, painted the boat, 22nd Maintenance Squadron provided the paint and stickers and the 184th Air Refueling Wing Survival shop provided professional assistance with the reupholstering, said Sergeant Grenier.

"We had a lot of help from those squadrons, and we appreciate their help," said Sergeant Perdue.

The water also damaged the motor, so the help of one of our sister services was called upon. After some research on the internet, a new motor was donated by the U.S. Coast Guard at Fort Dix, N.J.

In the end, Outdoor Recreation put a total of \$800 into the boat that is now worth approximately \$15,000.

"The money saved is phenomenal," said Jim Vause, Outdoor Recreation assistant manager. "Now it is available for people at McConnell to use."

The speed boat isn't the only new boat to the inventory. The mechanics also re-carpeted a pontoon boat and fixed the motor. They will also start working to remodel two more boats.

"We are really glad to have the boats ready," said Steven Gonzales, 22nd Services Squadron, Outdoor Recreation director. "The more equipment we have the better. We want to get people outdoors and using this equipment that is available to them instead of sitting inside all weekend."

Hill lodging plans decor facelift

By Beth Young
Hill Air Force Base,
Utah, Public Affairs

Hill Air Force Base, Utah, lodging is living up to its new slogan, "Rest with the Best" with a million dollar renovation.

The project will upgrade the décor in Bldgs. 350 and 480 and facilities at the Utah Test and Training Range.

"These are the oldest buildings we have," said Alison Reid, 75th Services

Division lodging manager. "They are in need of a face lift."

All soft goods will be replaced, such as carpet and wall coverings.

The new décor was created by Air Force Material Command designer Marcy Roppe, using updated colors and designs with subtle Utah themes.

"We wanted to use decorations that reflect where we are," Ms. Reid said. "We have some nice

artwork featuring fishing, mountains and skiing."

The money for the project comes from the Command Lodging Fund, which pools the revenue from all the AFMC lodging facilities and redistributes it evenly.

"This makes it so all the bases get equal amounts," Ms. Reid said. "Smaller bases don't usually make enough money to refurbish their operation. It's a great program."

Due to the high traffic military lodging gets in their facilities, the CLF program ensures that military lodging doesn't become outdated and worn.

"Many times a person's first impression of Hill and even the Air Force comes from their lodging accommodations," said Joshua Coleman, lodging logistics assistant. "By upgrading these items, guests are provided with a room that has a new, fresh feel and a cozy ambience that is recognized right away."

The upgrades will include new experimental furnishings called conversion furniture.

"It has a 35-year warranty on the frame," Ms. Reid said. "It's a little more expensive the first time, but when we do the next upgrade, we should be able to take the fabric off here and put new covers on ourselves."

Because the renovations will take place during the lodging's slow

season, it should not cause any problems for guests.

"We want to make sure our guests stay in quality rooms, and receive quality service," Ms. Reid said.

Mr. Coleman said the improvements will benefit the staff as well as guests.

"To work in an environment where, clearly, the Air Force takes pride in what it has to offer makes an employee feel proud of where they work," Mr. Coleman said. "It also encourages them to be at their best because they are offering the best."

The renovations at the UTTR and Bldg. 480 are scheduled to start in October, and be completed in six weeks. Because of a special wall treatment, the renovations in Bldg. 350 will be finished at the end of the year.

"If you have to stay in a hotel room, you are going to feel so much better if the room has newer furnishings," Mr. Coleman said.



Alison Reid, 75th Services Division lodging manager, points out some of the features of the new rooms on color boards. Photo by Beth Young



Not forgotten: Families of deployed Airmen have help

A base firefighter talks with children at the deployed family picnic and shows them what they look like if they had to come to their rescue. Photo by 2nd Lt. Faye Fernandes

By 2nd Lt. Faye Fernandes
U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo., Public Affairs

Many families with military members are dealing with a deployed loved one. The U.S. Air Force Academy Family Support Center and Master Sgt. Terry Blansett, the Family Readiness Program manager, are here to make those separations a bit easier.

One way to ease the anxiety is through the deployed family picnic held recently.

"We want to get as many people out here as possible, and let them know we're here for them," said Sergeant Blansett.

The event drew several families of deployed Airmen who ate barbecue together, played in a bouncy castle and volunteers from the hospital and family advocacy even made balloon animals for the children.

Tricia Fest, whose husband, Staff Sgt. Ted Fest, has been deployed for six months to southern Iraq, attended the picnic with their two children.

"Families who are separated should stay active and keep their kids involved with many sports and other activities, and use all the resources the base provides," said Mrs. Fest. "This deployment has been easier than previous ones because of all the support from family, neighbors and first sergeants."

The base firefighters made a stop at the picnic to show kids what firefighters look like when they're dressed up in their gear, and to let them crawl inside the truck.

McGruff the Crime Dog also made an appearance, posed for photographs and reminded the kids to say "No" to drugs.

"Both enlisted and officer leadership try to help deployed members' families as much as possible," said Master Sgt. Mike Mater, 10th Civil Engineering Squadron first sergeant. "Commanders and first sergeants know the stresses placed on separated families, the deployed Airman and how to cope with it. It takes a load off of them so they can focus on what they're trying to do

over there, and not be worried about their families back here," said the first sergeant.

In addition to the monthly events held by the family support center, other services are available to families with deployed members, such as free child care provided by the child development center, and free phone calls overseas.

Consistently, as many as 14 families of deployed Airmen come to family support center sponsored events.

"We would like to have more," said Sergeant Blansett. "These events provide opportunities to network with other families as well as discuss issues and problems with leadership."

The family support center NCO encourages all families of deployed Airmen to contact the family support center or come to one of their monthly events.

"My job is to make sure these families don't need anything," said Sergeant Blansett. "Whatever they need, I'll take care of them."

CC's perspective

New Grand Forks Services CC shares thoughts

Capt. Paul Swenson took command of the 319th Services Squadron at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., in June.

The new 319th Services Squadron commander at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., Capt. Paul Swenson, recently offered his thoughts about his new assignment.

What do you expect out of the Airmen in your squadron?

As I told my squadron at the change of command, I only ask that they do their best.

By that, I mean bring your best ideas to continue to improve, do your best to take care of yourself and those around you (be a good wingman), and choose to be at your best every day so that excellence will endure today, tomorrow, and beyond.

What is your vision for your squadron (where do you want the squadron to be when your time as commander is over)?

Coming in to a squadron that's the command's nominee for best in the Air Force makes this a difficult question to answer, especially with Operation Enduring

Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom commitments and the pending Base Realignment and Closure decisions Services is already a leader in so many areas on base that it's tough to improve.

Where I see the squadron in two years is continuing to offer new and unique programs and partnerships to provide the best programs on base.

With the fantastic facilities we have here (Aquatic Center, Liberty Square, among others), we have the opportunity to provide year-round events and activities.

If you could sit down and talk with every single Airman, what is the one (or more) thing you'd tell them?

I'm glad you asked that, because I sit down and talk with my Airmen on a regular basis and what I tell them is this: the Air Force has a mission and expectation of us all. You can read it in AFI 36-2618, "The Enlisted Force Structure."

Do your part to fulfill our mission (protect and defend) by using your talents, skills and



abilities, and take personal responsibility to meet and exceed expectations.

How have your deployment experiences shaped you as a leader? (What are the most important lessons that deployments have taught you?)

I've had some awesome deployments, to Southwest Asia (Operation Southern Watch Operation Iraqi Freedom) and South Korea (Exercise Foal Eagle).

In all three instances, I've been either the squadron or flight commander for Services and fortunate to work with outstanding Airmen. We set our heading and airspeed early, lived with flexibility as the key to Airpower and redeployed with kudos such as "best ever" and "you're the reason for success."

I learned that when you tell people what's expected, give them the tools and abilities to succeed, and then hold them accountable for the results, you'll be overwhelmed at how much they achieve.

At the Academy

City 'kids' learn about kids, llamas, miniature horses



About 40 children participated recently in the Kids for City Kids Camp at the U.S. Air Force Academy Equestrian Center. Each child chose either a goat, llama or miniature horse and learned about the animal's habits and its feeding, watering and exercise needs. Through hands-on workshops, the children also learned milking, grooming and shearing techniques. The camp was made possible through a partnership between the Falcon Trail Youth Center and 4-H. Photo by James Lovely

Changes abound in food services

By 1st Lt. Carrie Kessler
Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., Public Affairs

Patrons of the 28th Services Squadron flight kitchen and Bandit Inn Dining Facility at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., may notice a few changes.

One of those changes is that Airmen in their physical training uniforms can now purchase "take out" meals from the facility. This new policy is an addition

to the previous change concerning "take out" meals, which authorizes only uniformed Airmen to purchase these types of meals.

"The change was implemented due to budget constraints," said Master Sgt. Karen Rugg, 28th SVS dining facility superintendent.

"This new policy saves money by not using as many carry-out trays."

Two other changes in the food service arena affect flight kitchen patrons.

Cold meals are now available for purchase during established hot meal hours at the flight kitchen, and both cold and hot meals will be prepared on a first-come, first-served basis. Previous flight kitchen policy didn't allow cold meals to be sold during hot meal hours.

"Changes were made due to requests from the customers," said Staff Sgt. Kesha Singletary, 28th SVS flight kitchen NCO in charge. "It offers more variety and

meal options now for the Airmen."

The second change to flight kitchen procedures is the addition of an a-la-carte pricing option.

This allows patrons to purchase individual items instead of an entire pre-priced meal.

"Patrons choosing this (a-la-carte) option though should keep in mind that in most instances it's cheaper to buy a pre-priced meal," said Senior Master Sgt. Bryan Hilley, 28th SVS superintendent.

All active duty, dependents, DOD civilians and retired military personnel are authorized to use the Bandit Inn for breakfast, dinner and weekend brunch.

Only active duty enlisted personnel are authorized to use the Bandit Inn for lunch, Monday through Friday.

Authorized flight kitchen patrons include anyone working on the flightline to include aircrew and maintainers.

Lackland Honor Guard boasts full colonel, four chiefs as members

By James Coburn
Lackland Air Force
Base, Texas, Public
Affairs

While most Air Education and Training Command personnel were off for family day, Col. Thelma Hales, commander of the 37th Mission Support Group, was handing a triangular-folded American flag to next of kin as she led two funeral details for the Lackland Honor Guard.

It's rare for a busy group commander to assume additional duties as a member of the honor guard.

"I feel very fortunate that they took me in, allowed me to join," she said.

The 37th MSG she commands is the largest support group in the States. Its more than 4,900 men and women support the training of 85,000 students annually and provide the complete spectrum of community services to a daily base population of more than 34,000 people.

Tech. Sgt. Herman Ybarra, NCO in charge of the Lackland Honor Guard, said he's "really proud to be part of an organiza-

tion that has so much support from our upper management. I've never heard of an honor guard that has four chief master sergeants and a full bird colonel on the honor guard."

Volunteers from throughout the base staff the honor guard, which falls under the 37th MSG's Services Division.

Colonel Hales, along with Chief Master Sgt. Robin Johnson, superintendent of the 37th MSG, asked to join the honor guard after attending the honor guard banquet in May.

At Fort Sam Houston, Colonel Hales handed the flag to the widow of an Air Force veteran, Master Sgt. Bobby Ware, who worked as a pharmacist at Wilford Hall Medical Center for 19 years. He retired first from the Air Force in 1988 and then as an Air Force civilian in January 2004. He served as a helicopter mechanic in the Vietnam War, receiving the Bronze Star Medal. He died of cancer at age 63.

"May God bless you and your family and the United States of America," Colonel Hales said she told Ruth Ware.

"Unfortunately, the part of the honor guard most people see is really minor. It's a promotion ceremony when they present the colors," she said. "The bulk of the work and the reason we have an honor guard, is really the military funeral, to honor our own."

The colonel and chief both were very complimentary of

the young Airmen who sacrifice one week a month, including weekends, to serve on the honor guard. "I wish that every supervisor that lends us these Airmen for the honor guard could see what it is that they're doing, because I think they would be awfully proud," Colonel Hales said.

"It was just incredible for me," she said, describing the experience as a "pride that I was a part of it, part of an organization that honors its own in such a wonderful and dignified manner."

"As I gave the commands and began watching our honor guard members, the young ones, do their drills and their routines with such precision, with such dignity, I have to remind myself I'm a part of this, because I almost got carried away watching it all ... I was just one giant goose bump, covered in goose bumps."



Col. Thelma Hales presents the flag to Ruth Ware, widow of retired Master Sgt. Bobby Ware, in a funeral with full military honors at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Watching are son Steve Ware and his wife. Photo by James Coburn

Academy Equestrian center offers stagecoach, carriage rides



Lonnie Aragon, Academy Equestrian Center assistant manager, takes passengers, from left, Clara Barrett, John Hannereth and Jennifer Barrett on a short ride in the center's new four-person carriage. Photo by James Lovely

By James Lovely
10th Mission Support Group Services

The U.S. Air Force Academy Equestrian Center is making it easy to get a taste of the Old West without leaving the area. Eligible people can call and reserve a stagecoach, four-person or 12-person carriage and when the family, squadron or other group arrives, the team of horses will be hitched up, warmed up and ready to go.

A trained driver will take sightseers on a scenic Academy route that is tailored to be the vision of the perfect outing.

"We can customize the experience to suit just about any size group, whether you're building esprit de corps or just getting the family together for some unique quality time in the outdoors," said Billy Jack Barrett, equestrian center manager. "In certain circumstances, we can also take our horses and carriages to locations off the

Academy if it will better accommodate your group."

For large groups, several trail horses can be added to the package and people can follow the stagecoach and/or carriage on horseback. People can bring a cake and celebrate a one-of-a-kind birthday party.

The stagecoach and carriages are also perfect for a romantic evening.



Lazy days of Summer

Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif., Youth Center Summer Camp children pause to look at some turtles sunning on a piece of floating wood as they cross the bridge over the lake. The group enjoyed a nature hike around the lake at El Dorado Nature Hike in Long Beach, Calif. They spent the day having a picnic, drawing pictures, playing sports, feeding ducks and finding little creatures like the turtles and lizards out enjoying the sun as well. This was the first of the summer-long field trips the center offers. Each week, children visit different locations offered through the program, "Experience the Adventure." Photo by Jason Webb



Participants in Operation Purple spent a day at Antelope Island. Photo by Beth Young

Hill hosts military children for Operation Purple

By Beth Young
Hill Air Force Base,
Utah, Public Affairs

Military life can be hard, and not just for the people in uniform. Children with military parents often suffer the stress of deployments with one or even both parents gone for long periods of time.

Recently, Hill Air Force Base, Utah, hosted 48 military children for Operation Purple, a program designed to bring together military children for an adventure-filled week and give them tools to help deal with the stresses that result from a parent's deployment.

"Everyone here is in the same position whether they realize it or not, and so

they can relate to each other on that level," said Carole Enriquez, Youth Center recreational assistant. "They come here and instantly make friends from all over the country."

This is the second year that Hill's Youth Center has hosted the event, which is free to children of service members who have deployed.

The children come from all the branches of the military, from as close as Hill housing and from as far away as New Mexico and Virginia.

"With the National Guard they don't have a base to go to, so they may not know other kids who are in their situation," Ms. Enriquez said.

At the camp was speaker, Joe Conrad, a former Pennsylvania National Guard State Family Program director, who now works as a youth motivational speaker for more than 20 Operation Purple summer camps across the United States and Europe. Mr. Conrad taught attendees some ways to keep a positive attitude by making an acronym from the word "cope" — Care, Outreach, Patience and Enjoy.

"Instead of feeling sorry for themselves, he told them they should focus on reaching out to the community," Ms. Enriquez said. "This not only helps others but helps them to not become preoccupied

on their deployed parent."

The camp was a week of firsts for many of the attendees. A trip to Antelope Island included the first time on a horse and kayaking for many of the children.

"It's awesome, we are doing stuff we've never done before," said Tasha Bacon, whose father is assigned to the 388th Fighter Wing and recently returned from Iraq.

Although Tasha has the resources Hill offers military families, she still enjoyed meeting other military children.

"It's cool. I've never met them before but now we are friends," she said.

Attendees spent the week "roughing

it" in tents on the Youth Center lawn, participating in one of the many activities planned by the youth center, including archery, rock wall climbing and a military working dog demonstration.

A highlight for many of the children was the day spent at Lagoon amusement park.

For them to be able to come here and just have nothing but fun for a week, I think that is incredible," Ms. Enriquez said.

The Operation Purple program was developed by the National Military Family Association and was made possible by funding from Sears, as part of the Sears American Dream Campaign.

JUST READ! at Charleston – just yummy!



Austin Williams puts the finishing touches on his pizza face masterpiece as Ashlyn Whittmore looks on to other pizzas ready to go into the oven at the Just Fresh Bakery and Café at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. Photo by Annie Byrd

finished, a punch was given and a completed card could then be redeemed for a cookie of their choice at the restaurant.

It was hot in Charleston; but, hotter in the Just Fresh kitchens.

More than 45 children and their parents took a field trip to the restaurant for a tour and then made pizzas from scratch. After decorating with pepperoni, pineapple and loads of other fresh ingredients, they were able to eat the product of their hard work.

Other events included: "A World of Strings" – a presentation about string instruments by Charleston's very own award winning instrumentalist Roger Bellow, Just Robots! - a demon-

stration by Charleston AFB's own Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit (with their cool robots!) and Doggie Days – an interactive presentation put on by man's best friend and their cool trainers from the Charleston Dog Training Club.

These talented canines pranced, fetched and strutted their stuff in the library to an enthusiastic (and hugging) crowd of children!

How do you end such a fantastic program? With magic! The JUST READ! Finale, held at Just Fresh Bakery and Café, was chocked full of fun.

Children and their parents were entertained by Magician Shawn Anthony; they enjoyed face painting, program awards and great food.

The 437th SVS commander, Lt. Col. Thomas Egbert, presented certificates of completion to all program attendees and children were presented with program prizes – books, of course.

The JUST READ! reading program is the perfect example of a successful sponsorship which showcases the business and also benefits the Services' program.

**By Laura Abell
437th Services**

What do you get when you mix creative programming, a great community partner and children hunting for something to do during the summer? An interactive, exciting reading program designed to teach, entertain and have fun!

Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., Library staff teamed up this summer with Just Fresh Bakery and Café, a local eatery, to host an exciting summer reading series- JUST READ! This incentive based program began with

a kick off catered by Just Fresh in June and kept them hooked throughout the summer through a series of educational and hands on activities.

Just Fresh Bakery and Café provided huge, delicious cookies for the Library's first program – Just Cookies! Children mixed flour, sugar and vanilla and made a fun mess! Mysteriously, the "dough" vanished and awesome sugar cookies appeared. A popular (and delicious) incentive offered to the readers was a JUST READ! cookie card. For every book



From left, Stella Rosquist, Joshua Toney, Brandon Pugh and Kristina Toney have fun getting down and dirty stirring cookie dough at the Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., library's JUST COOKIES! demonstration. Photo by Judi Horry

Snapped around Services photo page

In Dennis' wake

The boat slip at the Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., Bonita Bay Marina was damaged during Hurricane Dennis. The boat slip was also damaged in last year's Hurricane Ivan. It had been repaired by Marina Club members. Photo by Isaac Gibson



Out to launch

The Lamertons, members of the Manatee Cove Marina at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., for nearly six years, prepare to sail out to view the recent shuttle launch. Manatee Cove Marina members have access to 35 covered wet slips, 205 open wet slips, 185 dry storage spaces and two launch ramps. The marina also features music, holiday parties, boat rides and other social events. Courtesy photo

Feelin' hot hot hot

The 56th Services Squadron Officers' Club Chef Fritz Isme sautes an entree while students take notes. Chef Fritz spilled his culinary secrets during a recent cooking class. Students learned how to prepare soups, sauces, appetizers, steak, chicken and seafood dishes. At the end of the class, students ate their coursework. Photo by Airman Levi Riendeau





Airman 1st Class Dineh Keesling, 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron and 22nd Services Squadron; Senior Airman Benjamin Abbott, 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron and Army 2nd Lt. Scott Nelles, 3112th Armor Battalion, 56th Brigade Combat Team, belt out a gospel tune at the chapel's contemporary worship service in Southeast Asia. The band is comprised of both Army and Air Force rotational forces supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Services Airman makes music in deployed chapel band

By Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips
407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

For one noncommissioned officer deployed to Southeast Asia, going to the chapel's contemporary worship service on Sundays feels like going home.

"It feels like church," said Army Staff Sgt. Joey Carter, 56th Brigade Combat Team deployed from the Army National Guard, Fort Worth, Texas, who plays the piano.

"It doesn't feel like your typical military service.

"He (Maj. Charles Perry, 407th Air Expeditionary Group chaplain) invites the spirit into service and makes it a worshipful environment," Sergeant Carter said.

Part of making it a worshipful environment is the band.

A combination of Air Force and Army members meld their musical talents into a team to play before and after the sermon.

Currently, they have drums, a pianist, guitar, bass guitar, vocalists, two back up singers and a lead guitar.

"I love to sing and there is a

freedom I feel when singing God's praises that I can't really feel in any other activity I do," said Airman 1st Class Dineh Keesling, 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron and 22nd Services Squadron. She also sang in the choir at another operating base in the Southwest Asia area of responsibility and at her home station, McConnell Air Force Base.

"When I am up there singing nothing else really matters even if I have had a bad day."

Some of the members also play

at several different services.

"We're a good mixture of different talent," said Sergeant Carter. "There's a mixture of Rock and Roll overtones, Gospel, Contemporary Christian, Southern rock and Country."

"The best part of being in this band is we're giving something back to the entire community; we aren't just one-service oriented."

Airman Keesling agreed.

"They (the band) are fun to be around and always have a positive outlook on things even though we are not in the greatest conditions.

It's almost like we are all one big family," Airman Keesling said.

Both members said performing in the band will be one of the deployment's highlights.

"It's a neat blend," said Sergeant Carter. "I'm going to go through a lot of Air Force rotations (in a year). You meet so many people, then you run into them at the chow hall or the post exchange.

It's neat."

NEWS PEOPLE

Cannon youth wins trip to AF Services space camp

By Melanie Salazar
Cannon Air Force Base, N.M., Public Affairs

Thirteen-year-old Kristian Arrington, stepson of Staff Sgt. Ben Sterns, 27th Medical Support Squadron at Cannon Air Force Base, N.M., wants to go out of this world some day. He already has a start, as the Marshall Jr. High School eighth grader headed for space camp in Huntsville, Ala., recently.

The Air Services Space Academy received hundreds of nominations for the week long camp, and from them selected 32 exceptional military dependents from around the world.

Youth Center Teen Coordinator Courtney Pryor, who said he had a wonderful time at space camp when he went, nominated young Arrington for the scholarship earlier this year after he learned of his outstanding grades in school.

"He's participated with programs, and he does community service with us," Mr. Pryor said. "But I never knew he had grades like that in school."

"It was a little bit of a shock because we found out there were 200 nominees and 32 scholarships awarded," said the boy's mother, Stefanie Sterns.

"If he's representing Cannon, this is the kind of kid I would like to have," said Mr. Pryor.

Recommendations from his Algebra teacher, Joan Elliot, and Band Director, Mario Cordova, also helped his competition.

His sister is happy to see her brother get such an opportunity.

"I'm very proud of him because he's very smart," she said. "I'm glad to see that his dream is coming true."

Though he would like to visit space one day, he said his real passion lies in airplanes. Since he saw his first plane at the age of four, he knew he wanted to be a pilot.

Coming from an extensive military family, he knew just what he wanted to do.

"I've always wanted to pilot an airplane, but I'd rather do it for the Air Force," he said. "I've always wanted to fight for my country."

"I hope he uses this as a stepping stone to all of his goals and aspirations," said Sergeant Sterns.

Mrs. Sterns, who hopes her son will gain real-life perspective goals for when he finishes high school, said his award should give other students motivation for pursuing their dreams.

"I hope other students will see that they can fulfill their dreams too," she said.



Nellis youths attend space camp

By Carolynn Blinkinsop
99th Services Squadron

Three Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., youths were awarded scholarships to attend Air Force Space Camp at the Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala., in July.

Emily Coffindaffer, Sarah Schoemer and Kate Wakeman were selected to attend the six-day camp. This camp is open to dependents of all Department of Defense employees, but there were only 64 slots.

Applicants had to be between 12 and 18 years old, have at least a 2.8 grade point average, be active in extra-curricular activities, present two letters of recommendation and were interviewed by a member of the Youth Center staff.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity," said Cindy Berg, Youth Center teen director. "It doesn't hurt to apply. Youths who are selected have their meals, lodging and activities paid for through funds provided by U.S. Air Force Youth Services.

The camp's purpose is to educate and expand children's interest and knowledge of the space mission," said Ms. Berg.

"The camp consists of physical activity, hands-on training, and academic learning relevant to the space mission, including two, two-hour space missions, where attendees' knowledge is tested.

Ms. Schoemer is an honor student with a Tae Kwon Do black belt, and a Civil Patrol member. She has aspirations to attend the Air Force Academy and become an Air Force officer.

"Sarah is very driven to excel," said retired Senior Master Sgt. David Schoemer. "She just returned from Aviation Camp at the Air Force Academy, and when she returns from Space Camp she is off to California with the Civil Air Patrol for a week of basic training. There is no better bargain for these experiences."

Ms. Coffindaffer said she has always wanted to be an astronaut. She also helped assemble a World War I airplane that was showcased in the 2004 Nellis Air Show.

"My dad has inspired me because I used to watch him in

Florida when he flew rescue helicopters every time the Space Shuttle went up," she said.

Her dad, Lt. Col. John Coffindaffer, 57th Wing chief of the Commanders Action Group said, "This is a dream come true for our family. We are honored she was one of the few selected, and we cannot thank Services enough."

Ms. Wakeman, daughter of Nellis employee Susan Wakeman and Gary Wakeman, said she would like to become a JAG.

"I view this opportunity as a great way to be with others who have similar goals," she said.

She recently participated in Community All Stars Camp at the Youth Center where she volunteered 80 hours coordinating care packages for deployed troops and reading to children at the Child Development Center.

"We're very proud of Kate to be selected for space camp. It took a lot of work on her part," said Ms. Wakeman.



Wellness coaching gets rid of lbs, inches

By Tech. Sgt. Jim Fisher
Osan Air Base, Korea.
Public Affairs

Master Sergeant Benedicto Miguel has been helping people get fit and adopt healthier lifestyles for more than 22 years. He's also one of the few active-duty members carrying the title of Superintendent and Fitness Director for the 51st Services Squadron at Osan Air Base, Korea. So when he sits down with a new client interested in living a healthier lifestyle, he knows exactly where to begin.

"Absolutely the first thing I ask: what is your goal?" Sergeant Miguel said. "I want to make sure people know what they want, and then I will develop a plan to help them reach that goal."

His opening interview is indicative of the experience and comprehensive approach available to Team Osan members looking to get fit, increase fitness,

lose weight, have more energy, improve their appearance, or any combination of these objectives.

"The program is about individual assessment and wellness counseling," Sergeant Miguel said. "We coach them on how to exercise properly, look at their nutrition, and we also look at their eating habits. We're here to help them make better choices."

With the help of the center's personal training staff, an exercise routine is implemented, along with other changes in lifestyle, for four to six weeks.

Approximately 300 people have participated in the program since Sergeant Miguel arrived at Osan nearly a year ago. He has built a program tailored to each individual's objectives.

"I always approach it in a way to meet the needs of the individual," Sergeant Miguel said. "I'm not going to convert you into a

bodybuilder if you don't want to be a bodybuilder."

Whatever the goal, Sergeant Miguel said it's important to work smart and train correctly.

"It's not what you do that's important; it's how you do it," Sergeant Miguel said. "We use a holistic approach: the wellness concept and also a focus on mind and body awareness. When people sit down with us, they walk away with a better understanding of themselves, exercise and fitness."

Everyone who applies the guidance has seen improvement. Some have exhibited the kind of dramatic results Sergeant Miguel has become accustomed to over the course of his career.

Department of Defense Dependents Schools Teacher Earl Price has been experiencing a dramatic transformation. Since sitting down with Sergeant Miguel at the beginning of March,

Mr. Price has lost 35 pounds and six inches off his waist.

"I got involved, I guess, because I realized I was going to have to buy new clothes," Mr. Price said. "I was going to have to buy new clothes because I continued to expand or because I was going to lose weight. I decided with the state-of-the-art gym available at no cost to me, it would be foolish not to use it."

Mr. Price also took advantage of the wellness coaching.

"I learned it was more important to exercise smart rather than hard," Mr. Price said. "And I'm not just losing weight, but I've lost six inches off my waste."

Mr. Price has a goal of losing 40 more pounds.

"I don't remember feeling this good in quite some time. I'll probably still keep going to the gym because I like it. The staff has been very helpful and encouraging," Mr. Price said.

Many people put in a lot of work without enjoying Mr. Price's level of progress, Sergeant Miguel explained, because they don't commit time to working out or learn how to work smarter. Having a goal without a target is also a common pitfall.

"I see the same people [in the gym], day-in and day-out, and they are not making progress," Sergeant Miguel said. "You must have a target, and most people don't."

They are either embarrassed, intimidated or they believe what they are doing is right." These things keep them from seeking help. But after enough time and futility, many do. And Sergeant Miguel and his staff at the fitness center are ready to help.

"I take these people and tell them, you will see progress in four to six weeks. And actually, they usually start to see progress within two weeks," Sergeant Miguel said.

Buckley builds Habitat home for dining facility worker, family

By Kristen Speck
460th Public Affairs

More than 50 Buckley Air Force Base, Colo., troops have joined Habitat for Humanity since early January to make one team member's dream come true.

Ronnettia Williams and her three children are expected to move into their new town home in Aurora, Colo., soon. Ms. Williams has worked for the 460th Services Division in the High Frontier Dining Facility for more than five years. Last year, while watching the evening news, she saw a ribbon cutting ceremony for a Habitat for Humanity home built in the Denver area.

"I thought how nice that would be," said Ms. Williams. "They were giving people the jump start that they needed to be able to provide a safe and happy home for their children. So, I decided to pick up the phone."

During this project, more than 80 local volunteers worked together to build eight town homes in the area.

"There were people out there almost every day," said Master Sgt. William Warr, 2nd Space Warning Squadron flight chief and one of the volunteers. "It was amazing to see the teamwork involved to make this project happen."

"This was my fifth time volunteering for a Habitat project, and it seems more rewarding every timer," said Tech. Sgt. Peter Rousseau, a volunteer from the 2nd Space Warning Squadron. "It's fun to work next to the owners and help them



Ronnettia Williams, 460th Services Division, works with one of her sponsors, Danae Troup, to build a Habitat for Humanity home that would eventually become her own. More than 80 local volunteers, including several from Buckley Air Force Base, Colo., helped Ms. Williams construct the new townhome in Aurora. Ms. Williams put in 400 hours to help with construction and expects to move in with her three children soon.

build their new home. The closer we get to finishing the house, the more excited the owners get."

Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry that seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world. They pride themselves in making decent shelter a matter of conscience and action.

They invite people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need.

"We are so fortunate to see groups such as Habitat for Humanity reach out to local families," said Capt. Willie President, 460th Services Division combat support

flight commander. "They contribute to helping hard working individuals, such as Ronnettia, provide for their families."

Habitat for Humanity is not a giveaway program. In addition to a down payment and the monthly mortgage payments, homeowners invest hundreds of hours of their own labor, known as sweat equity, into building their house and the houses of others.

"I couldn't have sat at the side even if I had wanted to," said Ms. Williams. "I am proud to say that I put in over 400 hours of time at the site. Many days it was hard for me to leave as I was watching how much effort was going into making my dream come true."



Swim instructor makes lessons a 'splash'

Swimming instructor Macy Schutz assists Kareem Johnson Jr., son Staff Sgt. Kareem Johnson, 90th Logistic Readiness Squadron, during his swimming lesson at the F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., Aquatic Center. Photo by Lorri Welsh

By Matt Cox
Visual information

Children love swimming. It usually starts early, around age 6, when parents enroll them in lessons and buy them their first pair of water wings, or swimming aid arm bands. From that first dip, most children are hooked.

Macey Schutz, lead recreational assistant for the F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., Aquatic Center, 90th Services Squadron, can attest to magnetic quality between children and water.

She started early, at age 6, when her parents enrolled her in lessons and encouraged her to join the Warren Waves swim team. From that first dip, she was hooked.

"I swam in junior high and high school and I have coached the Warren Waves team for the past five years," she said. "I still swim every week, but I no longer compete."

She replaced Carol Cox as the head of the pool six months ago; Ms. Cox has orders and will be leaving at the end of this month. Replacing someone who had been in the position for 16 years didn't scare Ms. Schutz.

"When the lead recreational assistant positioned opened, I jumped on it," she said. "I love teaching, coaching and helping our patrons as best as I can."

To join the under-17 swim team, Coach Schutz said that children need to demonstrate the ability to swim the length of the pool in the freestyle and backstroke and display some knowledge with the butterfly and breaststroke. The team competes year round with other area clubs from the YMCA, Cole, Country Club and others.

The 21-year-old college student has just finished her sophomore year studying elementary education at Laramie County Community College and plans to transfer to the University of Wyoming in the fall.

As the aquatic center's single fulltime employee, Ms. Schutz juggles many responsibilities. Besides managing the lifeguard staff, scheduling work shifts, conducting staff training, teaching swimming lessons and water aerobics, she also has to tend to paper work and maintain a clean and safe facility.

"I really enjoy my job and the more I learn about it the more I like it," she said.

The aquatic center has eight certified lifeguards on staff, including Ms. Schutz, and each is trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Each has taken the required lifeguard certification course and they participate in monthly training sessions to keep their skills sharp. At least two life guards are always on duty.

The aquatic center features a five-lane, 25-yard pool with two slides, separated children's wading pool and hot tub. The hot tub is currently under construction and should be finished soon, according to Ms. Schutz.

Gear such as noodles, diving sticks, floating devices, kick boards, fins and water aerobic equipment can be checked out for free. The pool is open to anyone with a sponsor.

The pool is offering children and adult swimming lessons all summer and has scheduled more open swim and family swim time.

"I strongly believe everyone should know how to swim well enough to get themselves out of the water (if they need to)," Ms. Schutz said.

"Swimming is also a great sport and leisure activity."

Chadwell chef has a lot on her plate

By Senior Airman Tonnnette Boyd
F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., Public Affairs

Senior Airman Jennifer Bartow, 90th Services Squadron chef at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., is a shift leader at Chadwell Dining Facility, a quality assurance evaluator, CPR instructor and stress management instructor.

She is the winner of various awards including 2004 Air Force Space Command Airman of the Year and the Hennessy Traveler Award, which awarded her a \$1,500 culinary scholarship.

With all this on her plate it's a wonder she had time to sit down to talk about awards, accomplishment and cooking.

What did winning these awards mean to you?

I won for Space Command, which is just incredible to

me. The Hennessy is basically the top award you can win in food service, so to be the Best Chef in the Single Category for the Air Force is pretty cool.

What do you do here?

I'm the day shift leader. Basically I'm in charge of all the operations for breakfast and lunch. I take care of sanitation, safety, food preparation, quality of food, basically just watching over everybody and making sure everything's getting done like it needs to be.

Do you take on additional duties?

Right now I'm a quality assurance evaluator backup, a CPR instructor, and I teach stress management classes.

What accomplishments in particular do you think led to you winning these awards?

One of the big ones was I was one of two services troops in the whole

Air Force to go to the presidential inauguration in 2004. I also got Mission Support Group Airman of the Year last year, and just won Airman of the Quarter for the wing this year.

Tell me more about the presidential inauguration.

It was basically run by the Army but had all the armed forces there working. Along the president's parade route the armed forces lined the streets and we basically supported all of those people plus protocol personnel, about 3,000. We cooked soup for them, had coffee and hot chocolate ready ... just made sure they had everything they needed.

What did your family say when they'd heard you'd won?

They were very surprised, especially my mom about the Hennessy one. I never liked to cook growing up, I



Senior Airmen Jennifer Bartow, 90th Services Squadron chef and shift leader, serves breakfast to another Warren Airman recently at Chadwell Dining Facility. Photo by Senior Airman Tonnnette Boyd

absolutely hated it. She wants to come out here and taste my food now [laughs.]

What changed your mind about cooking?

The on-the-job training I received at Chadwell Dining Facility built my confidence. The more I did it, and realized I was good at it, the more I liked it. Over time it grew into a passion.

Are you planning to make a career of the Air Force?

I think so. I really love what I do, and now I have a line for staff. On 1 July I'll put it on. First time I tested I made it.

What do you do in your spare time?

Take care of my dogs. We have two labs and a pug, we just got the pug, she's just a puppy. I also mountain climb, and just took up archery.

If you could have your favorite food shipped in from anywhere, what would it be and where would you get it from?

Elk meat from Montana, with my mom cooking it. I grew up on deer and elk meat, so if I could have anything that would be it. She breads it and fries it up country style.

Local artist beautifies bowling alley

Warren lanes employee spends 60 hours on murals

**By Senior Airman
Tonnette Boyd**
F.E. Warren Air Force
Base, Wyo., Public
Affairs

The bowling alley at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., has a new look, thanks to Shannon Flynn, who painted

themed murals along the alley lanes' walls and the building's entranceway.

Mrs. Flynn, employed at both Warren's bowling alley and golf club, spent more than 60 hours of her free time hand-painting

images of balls colliding with pins along the walls.

The entranceway boasts the American flag rippling around a bowling pin.

"I was also going to school full-time at the time, so I was pretty busy. I'd spend four to five hours of my off-time painting, and then maybe have one or two hours to myself before I'd crash," said Mrs. Flynn.

Her husband, Senior Airman Ryan Flynn, 90th Missile Maintenance Squadron, is proud of his wife's talents.

"I missed having her around, but I've seen what she did, and it's good. Plus it made her feel good to do it. It made the place look a lot better," said Airman Flynn.

The murals, as employees of the bowling alley agree, improve the look and feel of the building.

"The patriotic entrance foyer logo

really enhanced the customer purview when they walk in, showing support for our troops.

The murals on the walls really match the color and intent of the new bowling center décor. It was done in a real artistic manner.

She's working on making the ones over the lanes glow in the dark for our 'Xtreme' bowling program.

This is the first update to the look of the bowling alley since 95-96, so it was definitely needed," said Bob Schofield, manager of Warren Lanes.

Others within the 90th Services Squadron are also grateful for Mrs. Flynn's creative contributions to the bowling alley.

"It was awesome that she did that. It's wonderful anytime base people invest personal time and talent to make programs at Warren

better for all of us," said Lorri Welsh, marketing director, 90 SVS.

Of course, the most important opinion belongs to the bowlers themselves, as the visuals could affect their morale, their level of excitement, and consequently their game.

"It's really cool what they've done with the place. I've bowled here for four and a half years, so I saw it before she did this," said Joy State, a military spouse and patron of Warren lanes. "It really helps the looks, especially when it glows in the dark for 'Xtreme' bowling.

"It was nice to contribute something. Those guys have been so good to me. It was nice to give something back," said Mrs. Flynn.



Shannon Flynn, a local art student and Warren spouse, puts finishing touches on one of the bowling murals she recently completed at Warren Lanes. Photo by Lorri Welsh

Names, faces in the news

New commander at 22nd SVS

By Capt. Brus Vidal
McConnell Air Force
Base, Kans., Public
Affairs

The 22nd Services Squadron welcomed a new commander recently during a change-of-command ceremony at the Robert J. Dole Community Center Ballroom at McConnell Air Force Base, Kans.

Lt. Col. Donald "Scott" Meeker succeeded Lt. Col. Jonathon Leathers in a ceremony presided over by Lt. Col. Steven Fisher, 22nd Mission Support Group commander.

Colonel Leathers is headed to Tinker AFB, Okla., as 72nd

Mission Support Group deputy commander.

The ceremony formally turned responsibility of command of the Services professionals to Colonel Meeker, who comes to McConnell after serving as Deputy Chief, Space Programs and Integration Division, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

"I have heard so many good things about the services squadron and McConnell and I am proud to be a part of it. Col. Leathers has left big shoes to fill," he said.

Services Agency names 2nd Quarter winners

CGO of the Quarter

Capt. Julio Hernandez

Senior NCO of the Quarter

Master Sgt. Daniel Walston

NCO of the Quarter

Staff Sgt. Guillermo Salazar-Curiel

Civilian, Category I

Eduardo Flores

Civilian, Category II

Jenifer Pratt

Civilian, Category III

Trevor Dean



Assumption of command

Maj. Susan Ferrera, 377th Services Squadron commander at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., addresses the guests at her recent assumption of command ceremony in the Mountain View Club. Major Ferrera, a veteran of 14 years in the Air Force, was a student at the Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., prior to taking command of the squadron. Photo by Dennis Carlson

NCOA graduates from F.E. Warren

Tech. Sgt. Robert Mickens

Tech. Sgt. Kristen Salinas

90th Services Squadron

Elmendorf's Arctic Warrior of the Week

Senior Airman Russell Gray

Duty title: 3rd Services Squadron, lodging shift supervisor

Hometown: Gulfport, Miss.

Hobbies: Fishing, playing rugby, working with military conservation agency and spending time with his two-year-old twins

How he contributes to the mission: Supports the mission by assigning lodging quarters to PCS in-bound and out-bound families and single personnel, TDY military and Department of Defense civilians and authorized space available people

Time at Elmendorf: One year

Time in Air Force: Five years

Supervisor's comments:

"Senior Airman Gray is one of the hardest working individuals I have ever met. He strives to improve the lives of not only our guests, but the entire base populace. It is an honor to supervise such an outstanding professional," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Block



Senior Airman Russell Gray

Agency Profile: 2nd Lt. Billy Graham

By Lee Schwabe
Air Force Services Agency

He's got a smile, sincere welcome and handshake for everyone he meets. He's one of those rare people who truly seem to enjoy every moment, even at work. Second Lieutenant Billy Graham works hard to make things better.

Lieutenant Graham's current assignment is in Air Force Lodging. The project he's working on is the standardization of Air Force Inns. This ultimately will save the Air Force money and streamline operations.

Lieutenant Graham comes from rural Tennessee. Electrical service, phone and mail came from three separate towns. From these humble beginnings came this accomplished, yet still humble man.

"The three best decisions I ever made were to join the Air Force, to

get married and to get active in community organizations," he said. Not wanting to draw attention to himself, he downplays his involvement in the organizations he helps. Instead, he'll tell you about all the good things the organizations do for others.

Lieutenant Graham describes himself as a huge sports fan. His favorite is the University of Tennessee football team, his home team, but not his alma mater.

He joined the Air Force as an Airman in 1988. After 13 years of enlisted time, he became an officer through the Reserve Officer Training Program.

On the move from enlisted to officer, Lieutenant Graham said, "I was looking for a way to give something back. Throughout my time in the Air Force, I've had the privilege to work with many people who were interested in seeing me



Graham

succeed both personally and professionally. By becoming an officer I can give something back."

Working at the Agency has been a fulfilling experience for Lieutenant Graham. "It's a great opportunity," he said, "working here I'm learning so much that I'll be able to use the rest of my Air Force career."

Lieutenant Graham gets many questions about his name, Billy Graham. His response? "Either my parents had high expectations or a great sense of humor."

Sheppard Spotlight 15 lines of fame

The Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, newspaper, The Sheppard Senator, highlights someone from the base in their "Sheppard Spotlight" feature. Recently, James Steward, environmental protection specialists and Auto Skills manager, was given his "15 lines of fame."

1. Organization: 82nd Services Division
2. Duty title: Auto Skills Manager/Environmental Protection Specialist
3. Time in service: Services Division: 6 years (Civilian on SAFB 26-plus years)
4. Favorite assignments: Marine Corps, active duty, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Divisions FMF
5. Career goals: Retirement
6. Date arrived at Sheppard: Started work at Sheppard in August 1965
7. Proudest military moment: Served 2 1/2 tours in the RVN and Desert Storm 1991
8. Hometown: Wichita Falls, Texas
9. Inspirations: "Honor, Duty, Country, Corps"

10. Hobbies: Confusing people, playing with 22-month-old daughter and fishing

11. Family: Wife, 5 daughters, 3 sons and grandchildren

12. Favorite thing about Wichita Falls: Born here!

13. Pet peeves: Stupidity and laziness

14. Favorite book or movie: "War and Peace"

15. Quote to live by: "I've got the enemy right where I want them and I'm attacking in all directions." General Chesty Puller, USMC and "Semper Paratus"



James Steward

Monster Mile

Jimmy Hewes, a Monster Mile staff member, assists Julie Rich, 436th Services Squadron Marketing Director at Dover Air Force Base, Del., into a NASCAR for a Monster Mile ride from John Dickey around the Dover International Speedway. Monster Racing supported Dover AFB with two complimentary rides through the 436th SVS sponsorship program. Patrons stopped by the Craftsman Tailgate Party at the Eagle Lanes Bowling Center or the NASCAR Social at The Landings club for a chance to win one of the Monster Mile passes. Photo by April Crampton



Davis-Monthan's Sonoran Spotlight

Editor's note: Sonoran Spotlight is a weekly feature of the Desert Airman that profiles a member — officer, enlisted or civilian — of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.)

This Sonoran Spotlight is on **Tech. Sgt. Jeimmy Bermudez** of the 355th Services Squadron.

Sergeant Bermudez is a shift leader at the dining facility on base. According to the facility manager,

Tech. Sgt. Darrel Collins, he was nominated because he, "is a superior performer who consistently outperforms his peers in all tasks."

The following are Sergeant Bermudez's responses to a variety of questions.

What are your main job responsibilities?

I ensure all personnel below me are fully trained and motivated through humor. I oversee the entire kitchen dayshift operations

from prepping, cooking, to line setup and garnish.

Why did you join the Air Force?

When I was a child, I would decorate my room with World War II model airplanes. I spent hours assembling and painting these airplanes, ignoring my homework.

My love of aerodynamics and wanting to be a part of history as opposed to simply reading about global changes led me to join the Air Force

and follow the path of the "Wild Blue Yonder."

What is the best part of your job?

"Services" is a career field based on ensuring our fighters have the will to fight. It is my responsibility to ensure the morale of our home base or deployed location is high. The best aspect is watching the happiness brought on by my job as we reenergize our troops spirits.



Tech. Sgt. Jeimmy Bermudez. Photo by Airman 1st Class Clark Staehle

FITNESS & SPORTS

Snapped around Services photo page

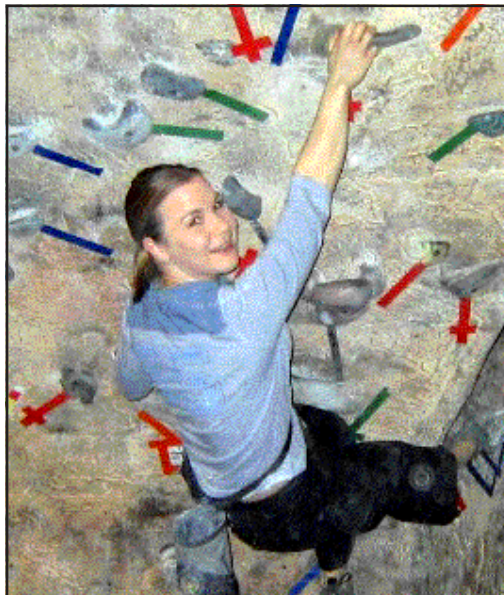


Balancing act

Cory Pohlman, a gymnastics instructor, helps 6-year-old Danika Plotkin do a cartwheel on the balance beam at a gymnastics class at the Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., Youth Center recently. Level 1 and level 2 gymnastics classes take place each Friday. The Youth Center also offers karate classes each Tuesday and Thursday, and will begin piano lessons this fall. Photo by Steve Wallace

Free family fun

Four-year-old Ethan Maze tosses his ball down the lane at Rough Rider Lanes recently as part of an afternoon of free bowling, pizza, and Treasure Island activities sponsored by the Minot Air Force Base, N.D., family support center. Photo by Senior Airman Katie Booher



Hang tight

Leslie Hornung, a rock climbing instructor at Misawa Air Base, Japan, works on her skill. The outdoor recreation center will be hosting several rock climbing trips near Tanasashi Seaside through October. Courtesy photo

Snapped around Services photo page 2



Unwinding at JR Rocker's

Staff Sgt. Michael Bittenbender, BEAR Base supply chief, helps his son Michael Jr. play a round of pool recently at J.R. Rocker's Sports Cafe at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. The sports cafe, still new to the installation, has quickly become a popular recreation spot for Team Holloman members. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ray Bowden

Cowabunga, dude!

Greg Koeven, son of Stewart and Capt. Jill Koeven, 20th Medical Operations Squadron, catches some air recently at the Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. skate park. The park is open every day during daylight hours and is located in front of the fitness center. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kevin Williams



Early fitness

Gymnastics instructor Kristin Kaitchuck teaches 2-to 4-year-olds the importance of stretching as part of any good warm up routine. Gymnastic classes are held at the Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Youth Center on Fridays. There are five classes and times vary by age group. Photo by Staff Sgt. Kenny Kennemer

Lifting weights builds muscle, burns fat

By Master Sgt. Allison Day
Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, Public Affairs

After four years of working out with weights, Senior Airman Michael Blahut can see a change.

"I got into weightlifting shortly after I joined the Air Force," he said. I do circuit training, which allows me to lose fat and gain dense muscle mass."

He also mentioned the rewards he gets for exercising.

"I am self-motivated to do this because of how good it makes me feel," he said. "I get a sense of pride being physically fit and it allows me to do anything physical that I'd like to do."

"Weightlifting in conjunction with aerobic exercise is the best for optimal fitness," said 1st Lt. David Oakland, officer in charge of the fitness center for 3rd Services Squadron at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

"Weightlifting allows you to get better and stronger muscle mass and cardio offers aerobic endurance."

When starting an exercise routine you need an objective, he added. "If you're a couch potato and you make it to the gym once a week, that's good for you," said Lieutenant Oakland. "The goal should be to start slow and to increase activity as the time goes on. By increasing your activity, your endurance also increases."

However, the person who is working out occasionally and wants to see an improvement should increase his or her workout to four or even six times each week, he added.

Many find that being in excellent physical shape can lead to good results on the fitness test.

"I got a score of 100 on my fitness test," said Airman Blahut. "It's important to get some help from someone who's experienced, because you could get hurt if you don't

know what you're doing."

He also learned more about weightlifting by reading a magazine that deals with body building, he

added. In addition, he spoke with friends who worked out and got some tips from them.

For others, being physically fit allows them to feel a sense of accomplishment.

"I did a big bike trip recently and I was very proud to be among one of the first individuals that finished," said

Gail Hansen, a certified yoga instructor." A few years ago that wasn't possible. In addition to being challenging, I feel yoga has improved my physical performance tremendously."

Many health experts agree nutrition is a big part of any exercise routine.

"Weightlifting is only part of my routine," said Airman Blahut. "I also make sure that I eat right. That was my problem a few years ago."



Stefney Dunson uses a bench to pump out a few curls while working out at the Fitness Center. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Adrian Cadiz

It's also important to switch up your training.

"One day do weightlifting and the next day do cardio," said Lieutenant Oakland. "By doing this, it allows the muscle group to rest and gives the body time to build up protein from the food you eat."

It's also good to do a five- to 10-minute warm up, he added. This allows the flow of blood to increase throughout

the body and prepares the muscles for exercising.

Others find cooling down equally as important.

"During cool down, I feel so good," said Pat Claar, a certified yoga instructor. "Besides keeping me in shape, I feel it's good for the body and soul. I get such a feeling of happiness throughout the entire routine."

Travis youth form in-line hockey league

Staff Sgt. Reinaldo Martinez, Jets team member, 60th Comptroller Squadron, instructs Zac Pyle Miller on basic stick handling techniques. Photo by Staff Sgt. Matt McGovern



By Staff Sgt. Matt McGovern
Travis Air Force Base, Calif., Public Affairs

Travis Air Force Base, Calif., Youth Programs started the process of forming in-line hockey leagues recently, for children ages six to 14, at the skating rink behind Outdoor Recreation.

The Youth Center is providing all equipment, including skates.

"Children are welcome to attend; the hockey program will be free until leagues are formed, prices are not yet determined," said Mr. Steve Metcalf, youth sports coordinator.

Members from the Travis Jets varsity hockey team will be on hand to coach the children.

"We will probably have at least two members of the team to help the children with hockey skills," said Staff Sgt. Reinaldo Martinez, Jets team member, 60th Comptroller Squadron.

The first two weeks will consist of basic skating skills and techniques to include hockey position, falling properly, forward skating, safety and basic stops. The third and fourth week will be a familiarization of equipment with continued work on skating skills.

More advanced skating techniques, and competitive game play are during the fifth and sixth weeks.

"We are starting from scratch with these kids; we'll start with basic skating drills insuring they know how to properly skate before giving them equipment to play a game," said Sergeant Martinez.

"Ultimately our goal is to provide youth in-line hockey leagues, so Travis kids are encouraged to try their skills," said Mr. Metcalf.

"This is a stepping stone to playing ice hockey and a great opportunity to try a sport that isn't offered every where," he added.

New Hanscom 1/4-mile track gets final surface, to open soon

By Theresa Feely
66th Air Base Wing
Public Affairs

Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., distance runners and sprinters now have a new facility on which to practice.

The new, six-lane, quarter-mile running track received its "top-coat" and is waiting for its "paint to dry" before runners can tie-up their laces and pound the pavement.

This track is an example of the latest technology, using resilient, synthetic, all-weather material over pavement, said Andy Fairbanks, Del-Jen Inc. project manager.

It consists of three layers: 1½" inches of coarse asphalt, 1½" inches of fine asphalt and the final layer consists of ½" inch of rubber topcoat composed of rubber crumbs bound with water-based latex.

The rubber top layer provides a

resilient, more comfortable surface than an asphalt top surface.

Runners will notice a milder impact resulting in less body strain, fatigue and injury as well as excellent traction and footing in either wet or dry conditions. The rubber surface will remain firm, but not hard; resilient, but not soft in all temperatures, Mr. Fairbanks said.

The construction of an interior drainage system and a 1 percent

lateral slope provides a puddle-free, safe running surface. A 100-foot chute provides a straight run out to accommodate short sprint runners.

"The addition of the new running track to the base's fitness facility assets is a tremendous plus for Team Hanscom personnel," said Jerry Turnbow, Fitness and Sports Center director. "Plans are underway to conduct youth and adult track meets during the summer."

Due to the composition of the track surface, no wheels should be allowed on the track surface; turning, starting and stopping abruptly will tear the surface.

This includes bicycles, in-line skates, skateboards and roller skates.

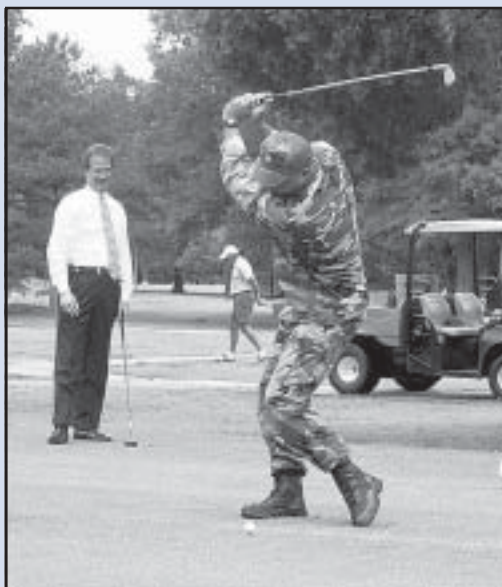
To prevent damage to the surface during the curing process, a temporary fence will surround the track to discourage premature use.

"The track, located at the old

soccer field, is one component of a three-pronged recreational enhancement project for the base," Mr. Fairbanks said. "The other two components are a new soccer field and an updated playground area,"

The area inside the track, which will become the soccer field, has been graded and seeded.

Two growing seasons will be required before the field will be ready for the kick-off of the soccer season.



Teed off!

Lt. Col. William Sherman, 14th Mission Support Group deputy commander at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., takes the first shot off the new tee boxes at Whispering Pines Golf Course as Fred McKenney, 14th Services Division director, waits his turn. Photo by Pam Wickham

Schriever Fitness Center blazes trail for \$400,000 track, field

By Staff Sgt. Phyllis Duff
Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., Public Affairs

Runners on your mark... get set... and say goodbye to road guards, hills and loose gravel. In a few short months, fitness testing won't be such an uphill climb.

Construction began recently on Schriever Air Force Base, Colo.'s first track and field located just west of the main Fitness Center.

After a week of earth moving, one could already see the oval shape of the soon-to-be 400-meter, six-lane track with shock absorbing, weather resistant surface and a lush, green playing field.

"An addition like our new running track was definitely a big undertaking," said Christy McCormick, an exercise physiologist and fitness program manager at the Health and Wellness Center.

The \$400,000 project, being constructed by Eastern Colorado Builders, a SABER contractor, is estimated for completion by Oct. 31.



"The new track will provide Schriever an easier method for accomplishing the Fitness Test and greater accessibility," said Ms. McCormick. "Plus, this will eliminate the need for posting road guards or closing down the roadway, as we do with our current running courses."

Just a little over six laps around the 400-meter track equals the 1.5 required miles Airmen must run during a fitness test. "Some folks train and test much better on the oval, and some folks adapt more easily to the longer course. Whether the times change will depend largely on the individuals themselves," she said.

The track and field will hold future benefits as well, said Kurt Brunnemer, 50th Civil Engineer Squadron. "In the future, when base housing is developed, the track and field will be great for organized youth fitness activities and sports," he said. "This would have the dual benefit of getting children into a mindset of fitness at an early age, while developing athletic skill at the same time."

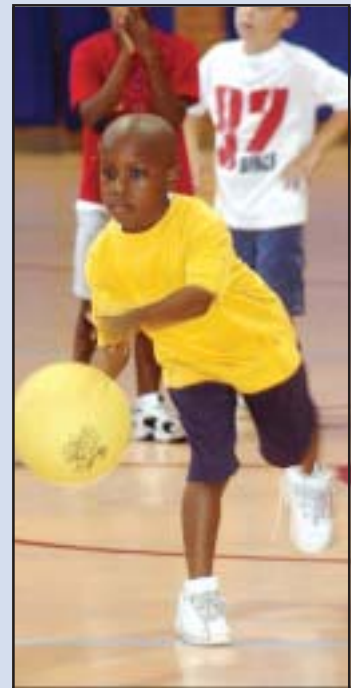
The Fitness Center's track and field is one more example of Schriever's ever-growing infrastructure and its continuing promise for the best quality of life for all Schriever members.

Track shoes sit at the edge of a construction area near the Main Fitness Center here, symbolizing the running track currently under construction. Workers with Eastern Colorado Builders, a SABER contractor, work to complete the \$400,000 project. It is scheduled to be completed by Oct. 31. Photo by Staff Sgt. Phyllis Duff



Summer fun at Robins

Top photo, Langston Newsome, 7, shoots pool at the Robins Air Force Base, Ga., Youth Center.



Bottom photo, William Menefee, 5, participates in an indoor ball game at the youth center.

Hollywood stars shine on Edwards hardwood

Orlando Jones, center, and Matthew Lillard, right, help guide a young fan during a contest. Photos by Senior Airman Jet Fabara



**By 2nd Lt. Brad Kimberly
Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Public Affairs**

The latest Hollywood production took place recently at Edward Air Force Base, Calif., as 10 celebrities laced up their basketball shoes and hit the court for a game.

For the fourth year in a row, the National Basketball Association Entertainment League sent celebrities to play basketball in support of Team Edwards members and their families. About 2,000 people attended the game, said Terry Stegman, 95th Services Division special event coordinator.

Playing on behalf of Team Freedom were Ice Cube, Matthew Lillard, Roger Lodge, Orlando Jones and James Lesure. Team Honor's lineup included Taye Diggs,

Larenz Tate, Wood Harris, Dondre Whitfield and Jay Harrington.

Paul Westphal, who led the Phoenix Suns to the NBA Finals twice, once as a player and

once as a coach, coached both teams.

Senior Airman Philip Williams II of the 412th Component Maintenance Squadron represented the 412th Test Wing, and Staff Sgt. Ryan Delaney of the 95th Security Forces Squadron were selected to play with the stars. Airman Williams supported Team Freedom, and Sergeant Delaney Team Honor.

"It's an honor just to do anything we possibly can to support the troops," said Taye Diggs, who is currently starring on UPN's "Kevin Hill."

Making his third appearance at Edwards for the game, Roger Lodge of TV's "Blind Date"

said, "One of the things we love about coming here is the wives and kids. They are just such wonderful people."

Offering a message to the Team Edwards members currently deployed, Orlando Jones, an actor and comedian who has appeared in "Office Space" said, "Come home safe. We believe in you, and we support what you're doing."

Although Team Honor was able to grab the lead several times during the first half, they weren't able to hold off their opponents. Team Freedom never looked back after halftime and maintained a constant lead until the buzzer. The final score was 77-64.



James Lesure, jersey number 14, and Matthew Lillard, number 13, defend against Wood Harris' layup.

Services hosts expo to help D-M community stay 'Fit to Fight'

By Stephanie Ritter
Davis Monthan Air
Force Base, N.C.,
Public Affairs

The 355th Services Squadron hosted an expo at Davis-Monthan's Fitness and Sports Center recently.

The focus of the event was to pro-

mote fitness and health activities as lifelong goals.

"Events like the Services Expo help Airmen stay committed to a healthy lifestyle by educating them on health and fitness," said Chris Sweeney, 355th SVS marketing publicist.



First Lt. James Parker, 355th Services Squadron and 2004 Air Force Male Athlete of the Year, discusses the benefits of the Air Force Sports and Athletics program with a group of D-M Airmen. Photos by Chris Sweeney

Included in the event were booths, including an Air Force Athletics representative.

In addition, the event featured several demonstrations to generate interest in the wide

range of programs available.

"By providing demonstrations like Pilates Class, we hope to keep people focused on health and fitness," Mr. Sweeney said. "We hope that the

demonstrations and contact with sponsors will help motivate members to participate in regular fitness programs. These programs will help get Airmen ready and fit to fight."



Lisa Martinez, Aragon Chiropractic, gives Helen O'Connor, spouse of retired Lt. Col. Anthony O'Connor, a massage during the Services Expo.



Airmen check out one of the booths featuring a variety of health products during the Services Expo hosted by the 355th Services Squadron. The Services Expo was held at the Fitness and Sports Center.

Just for parents — a new Nellis family fitness area

By Carolynn Blinkinsop
99th Services Squadron

The Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Sports and Fitness Center is providing the means for busy parents to get to the gym for a workout. The fitness center has converted a racquetball court into a three-section exercise and child play center.

The center features two treadmills, two stationary bikes, a corner home gym, stair master, plus an elliptical trainer in the main section. The other two sections contain age-appropriate, see-through, child-safe areas for children to play while parents exercise.

Both sections have books, toys and televisions with VHS capability. The walls have painted murals and decorations to complete the fun.

"Most importantly, all of the exercise equipment is facing the direction of the play areas," said Kevin Hodsdon, fitness center director. "This enables parents to



Senior Airman Rachelle Springer, 99th Services Squadron Sports and Fitness Center, cleans the Parent and Child Workout room at the base gym. Photo by Senior Airman Travis Edwards

see and supervise their children while still getting a workout."

Fitness Program Director Staff Sgt. Jayson Herrera said he sees the room as a life-saver. "Far too many of my clients say they can't work out because of the kids. Well, now they have a solution," he said.

First Lt. Kemmey Esteban said she is a strong advocate for the family fitness concept. "This room is just the beginning," she said. "We plan to offer special events that target family participation, like family fun-runs and mother/daughter aerobics classes."



Poker run in the sun

And they're off! Approximately 100 runners accepted the challenge by the Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Sports and Fitness Center to complete in the recent 5k Poker Run. The group started at the base gym, and ran around Freedom Park before ending their 3-mile run at the fitness center. The overall winner, Airman Manual Orantes-Calero from the 99th Civil Engineer Squadron, completed the race in 19:49. Photo and Illustration by Julie Ray

Royal Oaks golf course vandalized

By Senior Airman Joe Laddan
Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Public Affairs

Johnson County police and the 509th Security Forces Squadron at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., are investigating a recent vandalism incident at Royal Oaks Golf Course.

Between 9 p.m. July 6 and 6 a.m. July 7, and undisclosed number of individuals broke into the course's temporary clubhouse trailer, hijacked golf rental carts and damaged parts of the course.

Interim golf course manager Zack Adamson called it the worst incident of vandalism during his six years working at the course. Mr. Adamson said he is still assessing the cost of the damage.

"It's pretty hard on my staff because we work really hard to get the course in the best condition possible for golfers," Mr. Adamson said.

To gain access to the golf carts, someone apparently cracked a lock to get inside the trailer and stole keys to golf rental carts. Then the perpetrators apparently took the

golf carts for joy rides through the 300 acre complex. Two of the carts' dashboards were torn open. Several putting greens were ripped with tire tread marks and staff members found 28 of the course's 70 rental golf carts were scattered throughout the complex. Beer cans and garbage littered the course grounds. One of the carts was found lying against some brush and another was found sitting in a ditch on the south side of DD Highway.

"We take this matter seriously,"



A golf cart sits along DD Highway north of Royal Oaks Golf Course. The course was vandalized in July. Courtesy photo

Lt. Col. Chuck Douglass, 509th SFS commander said. "Vandalism against any Air Force property is unacceptable. Rest assured, we are working with Johnson County to resolve this quickly."

Intramural rounds were cancelled July 7, but the course re-opened July 8. Mr. Adamson said he and his staff spent 5-6 hours re-sodding greens and picking up debris.

"When someone tears into something for no reason it hurts," Mr. Adamson said. "We've put a lot of hard hours on the green to get it into condition."

This was the first vandalism reported since 2003, when a golf cart was driven through flag marker sticks, but caused minor damage.

"I'm sure the criminals will be caught and punished," Colonel Douglass said.

Play ball

Chris Tooman, 757th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., pitches the ball while shortstop Paul Rudolph gets ready to anticipate where the ball is going to be hit in their game against 99th Services Squadron. Photo by Airman First Class Jason Huddleston



Three chosen as World Class Athletes

By Steve VanWert
Air Force Services
Agency

Two bobsledders and a pole-vaulter are the newest members of the Air Force World Class Athlete Program, administered by the Air Force Services Agency in San Antonio.

Tech. Sgt. Hoy Thurman III, from Robins Air Force Base, Ga., and Airman 1st Class Michael Bradley, from Hill AFB, Utah, are training for the 2006 Winter Olympics; and 2nd Lt. Paul Gensic from the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo., has his sights set on the 2008 Summer Olympics.

As members of the WCAP, the trio will be able to dedicate their time and energy to train for their sports, with the Air Force with them every step of the way.

Lieutenant Gensic, a financial management cost analyst, started pole-vaulting in 6th grade because his three oldest brothers were pole-vaulters in middle

school and high school. In high school, the lieutenant was the USA track and field junior Olympic runner-up and went on to place eighth in the IAAF World Youth Championships in Bydgoszcz, Poland.

At the Academy he was a three-time All-American. He has cleared 18 feet and a half-inch in such prestigious meets as the 2004 NCAA Division 1 Indoor Championships and the 2005 NCAA Division 1 Indoor Track and Field Championships. He qualified for the 2004 Olympic trials by clearing the same height. He joined the WCAP as soon as he graduated from the Academy.

"The World Class Athlete Program provides a unique opportunity for me to train for and compete in world class track and field competitions, and also represent both the United States and the U.S. Air Force," he said.

When not competing in the pole vault, the 23-

year-old lieutenant plays the guitar, goes rock climbing, fishing and camping. He's passionate about his faith and is involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Sergeant Thurman is a surveillance radar technician. He's had assignments at Eielson AFB, Alaska; Dyess AFB, Texas; and the Georgia Air National Guard headquarters at Robins AFB, Ga.

The 37-year-old married father of two boys didn't get interested in bobsledding until 1996. He didn't get an opportunity to compete until 2004. But he quickly made up for lost time. He was third in the Two-man sled at the America's Cup in Calgary, Canada, in 2004 in his first race. It took only two more races for him to become a winner, finishing first in the Two-man sled at the America's Cup race in Salt Lake City, Utah, also in 2004.

Since then, he has placed third twice, second once



Second Lt. Paul Gensic, a pole-vaulter from the U.S. Air Force Academy, is one of three new members of the Air Force World Class Athlete Program. Courtesy photo

and first again at Salt Lake City and also at Lake Placid, N.Y.

"WCAP allows me to take advantage of this opportunity," he said, "and to be able to support my family while doing so. It also gives me the chance to represent the Air Force, my unit and community."

Airman Bradley, a 20-year-old aircrew life support special-

ist at Hill AFB, got an earlier start in his athletic career. He has been bobsledding since age 12 and became interested in the sport after watching the movie, "Cool Runnings."

"I watched the movie everyday," he said, "and was

Continued on next page

Trio has sights set on Olympics

continued from page 62

finally able to see the sport in person when I was 12. I was on vacation in Lake Placid and entered a youth program that took 12 young people from across the country and started them on Olympic careers."

Since then, he has won numerous medals in the Empire State Games (including one gold, four silvers and two bronzes.)

He has finished third twice finished

fifth in America's Cup circuit races.

The single Airman, originally from Philadelphia, Pa., has lived most of his life in West-erly, R.I. He has been assigned to Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, and at Hill.

"My mom and I have a close relationship and without her support and dedication, I would never have made it this far," he said. "The WCAP has allowed me to



Tech. Sgt. Hoy Thurman III, right, a bobsledder from Robins Air Force Base, Ga., is another newly-selected member of the Air Force World Class Athlete Program. Courtesy photo

train without any distractions. I'm able to set my sights on the Olympics and know the Air Force is right behind me supporting me. It

takes a huge burden of expenses off my shoulders."

"Selection to the World Class Athlete Program recognizes an athlete as one of the best in the nation in his or her sport," said Col. Timothy Hanson, Services Agency commander. "They are able to dedicate themselves toward qualifying for our nation's Olympic team. In exchange, the athletes positively reflect the image of Air Force professionals, display Air Force Core Values and bring credit to the Air Force."

The Air Force WCAP has been phenomenally

successful. In 1996, the inaugural year, 18 of 19 athletes qualified for the Olympic Team Trials, with three earning spots of the 1996 U.S. Olympic Team. The only WCAP athlete in the winter session made the 1998 Olympic Team. In 2004, members of the Air Force WCAP earned three sports of the Summer Olympic Team.

Three new members are now working hard to make the 2006 Winter and 2008 Summer Olympic Teams, under the guidance and support of the Air Force World Class Athlete Program.



The third newly-selected member of the Air Force World Class Athlete Program is Airman 1st Class Michael Bradley, a bobsledder from Hill Air Force Base, Utah. Courtesy photo

Air Force gets redemption in Armed Forces women's softball

By Steve Brown
Air Force Services Agency

The Air Force hosted the 2005 Armed Forces Women's Softball Championship, Aug. 22-27 at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., hoping to avenge their loss in the 2004 tournament's final game.

The team earned redemption by finishing 8-1 in first place, with the Army taking second with a 7-2 record. The Navy team was third at 2-7, followed by the Marine Corps at 1-8.

The host Air Force team entered the championship hoping to avenge the loss of the 2004 Armed Forces Softball championship to the Army in the tournament's final game.

The two teams faced each other in the opening game, with the Air Force grabbing a 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning. The Army came back to score six runs in the bottom of the first, and did not relinquish this lead until the top of the fifth inning.

The Air Force went into the bottom of the fifth with a 10-8 lead, however, the defending champions tied the game and eventually went on to hand the Air Force a close 16-14 opening game loss.

Staff Sgt. Amanda Snyder (Kadena Air Base, Japan) and Senior Airman Kristy Robinson (Eglin AFB, Fla.) each had four hits in four at-bats, while Master Sgt. Kisha Scott-McCloud (Little Rock AFB, Ark.) had four hits in five at bats.

The Air Force closed out the afternoon session with their first



Tech. Sgt. Karrie Warren from Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., swings at a pitch during the 2005 Armed Forces Womens Softball Championships held at Peterson AFB, Colo. Sergeant Warren, an outfielder, was chosen to the All-Tournament team along with shortstop Senior Master Sgt. Cheryl Trapnell from RAF Mildenhall, catcher Staff Sgt. Amanda Snyder from Kadena Air Base, Japan, third baseman Senior Airman Amanda Peters from Little Rock AFB, Ark., and first baseman Senior Airman Jamie Thompson from Misawa AB, Japan. Courtesy photo

win of the tournament, a 16-4 win over the Navy. Third baseman Senior Airman Amanda Peters (Little Rock AFB) had three doubles and a triple in this five-inning contest, while Senior Master Sgt. Cheryl Trapnell (RAF Mildenhall) had a homerun and two singles, driving in four runs.

The Army beat the Navy 15-2 in their last game of the day, while the Air Force closed out the first round of the triple round-robin tournament with a 13-1 win over the Marines.

Tech. Sgt. Karrie Warren (Tyndall AFB, Fla.) had three hits and three runs-batted-in, while Trapnell, Staff Sgt. Kazue Dancer (Izmir AS), and Tech. Sgt. Eileen Hendee (Peterson AFB) had two hits apiece in this game.

The Army opened up the second day by beating the Marine Corps 17-2.

The Air Force then mercy ruled the Navy 33-3, in four innings. Airman 1st Class Schameka White (Moody AFB, Ga.) and Robinson each had three hits in four at-bats, while Senior Airman Rebecca Tongen (Osan AB, Japan) and Senior Airman Katie Blair (Minot AFB, Neb.) each had a perfect two for two days at the plate. Trapnell had five runs-batted-in (RBI's) with a timely triple and single.

The Air Force then met archrival Army in a crucial rematch. The Air Force had to win this game to have

Continued on next page

AF women win Armed Forces softball

continued from page 64

any chance at the tournament championship.

The home team entered the bottom of the seventh behind by one run. Tech. Sgt. Laurie Doughty (Eglin AFB) and Graham started an Air Force rally with consecutive singles. The speedy Hendee came in to run for Doughty, and both runners scored on Trapnell's double, giving the Air Force a close 26-25 victory. Trapnell, Snyder, Peters, Robinson and pitcher Doughty all had four hits in five at-bats, with Trapnell contributing six RBI's and Robinson four RBI's.

The Air Force beat the Marine Corps 9-1 in the evening session, behind the timely hitting of Warren, who was two for four and had two RBI's. Sydney added three hits and Peters two RBI's.

After the Army opened the last round of games with a 16-4 victory over the Marine Corps, the host Air Force team beat the Navy 13-0.

Trapnell, Warren and Snyder all contributed three hits, while Senior Airman Jamie Thompson (Misawa AB, Japan) had three RBI's. Second Lt. Michelle Skarr (Schriever AFB, Colo.) and McCloud also drove in two runs each.

The Air Force beat the Marine Corps 14-8 in the first game of the afternoon session, with Blair leading the way with a double and two singles. Pitcher Hendee picked up the win and hit two singles.

The final game of the tournament would decide the gold medal, as the Army and the Air Force



The 2005 Womens Armed Forces Softball team. Courtesy photo

entered the game with identical records of seven wins and one loss.

The visiting Army team opened an early lead with four quick runs in the first inning. The host Air Force team came back to score nine runs in the bottom of the inning, totaling 11 hits in the inning. Neither team scored in the second, but the Army scored one run in the third and went on to regain a slim 13-12 lead in the top of the sixth.

The enthusiastic standing-room-only home crowd went wild when the Air Force scored eight runs in the bottom of the sixth. The Air Force entered the top of the seventh inning with a seven run lead. The Army team threatened in the seventh, opening with a base hit and a two-run homer.

Centerfielder Candace Graham (Kadena AB) made a fantastic running catch of a ball destined for extra bases, squelching a pending Army rally with the second out of the inning. Although the Army eventually loaded the bases, the final out came when Peters caught a hard line drive at third base.

Thompson came up big for the Air Force, with five hits in five at-bats and six RBI's. Trapnell added

four hits, while White and Doughty each had three. Warren, White and Graham each drove in two runs in this very balanced Air Force attack.

Master Sgt. William Hardy (Keesler AFB) and Master Sgt. Danny Acosta (Osan AB) coached the Air Force team.

Jamie Thompson (first base), Karrie Warren (outfield), Amanda Peters (third base), Amanda Snyder (catcher), and Cheryl Trapnell (shortstop) were selected to the All-Tournament Team.

This was the final year for Trapnell, the legendary Armed Forces shortstop who played in 20 Armed Forces championships, earning berths on 17 Armed Forces All-Star teams, nine First Team National All-American honors, and two Second Team National All-American awards.

Based on availability, pitcher Laurie Doughty, second baseman Kristy Robinson and outfielder Scott-McCloud will join Thompson, Warren and Snyder on the team that will advance to represent the U.S. Armed Forces at the 2005 Amateur Softball Championship Western Regional Championship at Waxahachie, Texas.

Services, engineers set stage for field of dreams



Ernie Martin, 21st Services Squadron assistant sports and fitness center and program manager, draws the chalkline to mark where the home run fence is to be placed. The fields were modified for the Armed Forces Women's Softball Championship. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Denise Johnson



Michael Coats, 21st SVS sports specialist, drags the infield on Field 3 for the women's teams to practice on. The crews worked an average of eight hours per day to keep the fields up to par following bad weather. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Gilreath



Technical Sgt. Robert Ross, 21st SVS NCO in charge of the sports and fitness center, checks the status of a leaking water pump on Field 1. The pump was replaced by the base landscaping contractor and is key for watering and keeping dust down on the infield. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Gilreath

By Tech. Sgt. Matt Gilreath
Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., Public Affairs

Members off the 21st Services Squadron and 21st Civil Engineer Squadron played a

key role in setting up softball fields for the Armed Forces Women's Softball Championship series at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., recently.

Ernie Martin, 21st SVS sports and fitness center

assistant manager and program manager, said it was a combined effort to prepare for this year's event.

"We spent six to eight hours a day on the fields to keep them up and to get them ready for the

tournament, especially after the bad weather we've had," Mr. Martin said.

"This year we got some really good dirt for the infield and CES did a great job laying it down," Mr. Martin said. "The people from

the CES electrical section played a big part when they came out and re-lamped the fields for the night games. The base landscape contractor, Embassy Lawns, put fine gravel down for the warning tracks."